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The 1956 Hungarian Revolution:
A Fresh Look at the U.S. Response *

Few events during the Cold War have received as much attention or generated so much criticism as the Soviet Union's crushing of the Hungarian revolution.¹ While Moscow's action cost it the support of many Western communists and others on the Left, Western powers have shared the blame for the revolution's failure. Not only did the West essentially remain passive, but Britain and France joined Israel in invading Egypt at the moment the revolution seemed close to success, thus diverting world attention and providing cover for the Soviet Union to suppress the Hungarians. (U)

Nearly all accounts have criticized the weak U.S. response. Only a few months later, a bipartisan Congressional group focused on the Eisenhower administration's lack of preparedness and inability or unwillingness to take effective action. "With the Hungarian revolution the whole earth quaked," the group declared. "The United States, the free world leader, stood by."² Numerous studies have accused the administration of hypocrisy for encouraging the peoples of Eastern Europe, through public statements by Eisenhower and others beginning with the 1952 election campaign and through subsequent Radio Free Europe (RFE) broadcasts, to throw off their communist

* The focus is on the period between the outbreak of violence in Budapest on 23 October, which prompted the first Soviet intervention, and the second large-scale attack on 4 November that effectively ended the revolution. Events preceding the revolution, the many months of subsequent UN debate and continuing Hungarian resistance, and the refugee question are only touched upon. (U)

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governments and then doing little when the Hungarians at tremendous human cost nearly accomplished this.* Passage of time and availability of new records have softened these judgments only slightly.³ Recent works still contend that the United States betrayed the revolution.⁴ Even a U.S. diplomat who lived through the events in Budapest, looking back a half century later, concluded that Washington, "if unintentionally, had misled Hungarians and then was unwilling to shoulder its responsibilities and to make a serious enough effort to find a solution."⁵ (U)

The harsh views should be tempered. The United States was more prepared for turmoil in Eastern Europe than has generally been acknowledged and was pursuing, in accord with its NATO allies, a carefully constructed policy—short-sighted in one key respect--which nevertheless nearly succeeded. At the UN the Americans took the lead in addressing the Hungarian question right up to the time of the Anglo-French invasion of Egypt. The Legation in Budapest performed well under difficult circumstances. Finally, reporting by western radios of UN consideration of Hungary's plight and the action it took in the Middle East crisis, more than anything RFE said, may have misled Hungarians into thinking the West would intervene on their behalf. The major U.S. shortcoming was that Washington made no plans to deal with sustained violent demonstrations in the Soviet bloc because it did not consider them possible. For that matter, no one else did. (U)

* According to one tabulation, the toll included 2,000 Hungarians killed, 17,000 wounded, 13,000 imprisoned or deported, 229 sentenced to death and executed, and nearly 200,000 out of a population just under 10 million who chose to flee the country. (Eörsi, *Hungarian Revolution of 1956*, 23 (U). Another source says that 26,000 were imprisoned and as many as 600 executed. (Kramer, "Soviet Union and the 1956 Crises in Hungary and Poland," 211 (U). In addition, more than 700 Soviet soldiers lost their lives and some 1,200 were wounded (Györkei and Horváth, *Soviet Military Intervention in Hungary*, xiii (U).

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As political and intellectual ferment spread through Soviet bloc countries in the wake of Nikita Khrushchev's February 1956 speech denouncing Stalin, the United States continued to modify its policy toward Eastern Europe, an adjustment that had begun as early as 1952 and continued into the Eisenhower administration. Instead of promoting unrest and revolution behind the Iron Curtain with the aim of toppling the communist governments, it sought to encourage gradual change and the establishment of governments along the lines of Tito's in Yugoslavia that would enjoy a measure of independence from Moscow. This objective underlay a National Security Council (NSC) paper adopted in July 1956 and [REDACTED] for the East European satellites completed the following month. Earlier, in the spring, Washington had established an interagency working group, chaired by Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs Jacob Beam, to monitor developments in the Soviet bloc and make recommendations for responding to rapidly changing situations, as it subsequently did during the riots that briefly swept Poznań, Poland, in June 1956. The United States wanted merely to "keep the pot simmering" in Eastern Europe, not to have it boil over into a major outbreak of violence that would result in a bloodbath. Since it desired and expected no more than brief, small-scale outbursts, it was not prepared to deal with a national revolution.⁶ (S)

There may have been surprise in Washington and elsewhere that further unrest developed as quickly as it did, but there was no doubt that it was going to happen at some point and that Poland and Hungary were likely places. The charge by Democratic presidential candidate Adlai Stevenson, echoed by others, that it took the U.S. Government completely by surprise has little merit. Washington's attention, particularly

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that of Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, had been focused since the summer on resolving the Anglo-French dispute with Egypt following Egyptian President Nasser's nationalization of the Suez Canal. Nevertheless, Dulles's 18 October early draft of a speech he planned to deliver a fortnight later referred to "the rising tide of protest against the ruthless domination of the Kremlin, which appears in the press, on the radio and in public statements in Poland, Hungary, and other satellite countries." The draft reiterated his belief that it had "never been our purpose to try to provoke violent revolutions which would be bloodily repressed by vastly superior military forces. But, by maintaining a position of sympathetic encouragement, and by following policies in the rest of the world which foster democratic development, we can exert a contagious influence which inevitably helps build up a steady pressure for freedom. This pressure will in the long run prove irresistible."⁷ (U)

What surprised everyone was the suddenness of the crisis that erupted in Poland when Khrushchev and a high-level Soviet delegation appeared unannounced at the Warsaw airport on 19 October and confronted the new Polish leader, Władysław Gomułka, recently released from prison and reinstated to communist party membership, about the liberalizing trends taking place within the country and the rumored removal of hard-line figures from the government. An emotional standoff ensued, with Gomułka demanding that Khrushchev halt the advance of Soviet military units on Warsaw. Fearing tough resistance by Polish militia and the general population and after receiving assurances that Poland would remain a loyal Soviet ally, Khrushchev agreed and the crisis passed.⁸ (U)

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The Polish Dry Run

During both the Polish trouble and the early days of the Hungarian revolution that followed, the Department of State's communication with its mission in each capital was severed. Washington was so poorly informed about events in Poland that even if it had wanted, it probably would not have become involved. Gomulka's successful defiance of the Soviet Union, however, reinforced the U.S. inclination, shared by other Western powers, to stand back and let events run their course if something similar happened elsewhere in the satellites. (U)

Eisenhower and Secretary of State Dulles knew little more than what was in the newspapers. At home the morning of 20 October, a Saturday, when he received reports of the confrontation between Polish and Soviet leaders, Dulles decided to issue a statement expressing the "hope that Poland was achieving the independence promised by the UN Charter" and recalling the 1945 Yalta agreement about free elections. He cautioned Under Secretary of State Herbert Hoover, Jr., that "we must not however seem too action [active?]." State officials who came to work that day declined comment for the press, admitting that they "had little more information than appeared on the news tickers." The department's situation report as of mid-afternoon depended entirely on press and radio accounts. Not until late afternoon was it able to establish direct telephone connection with the Embassy in Warsaw.⁹ (U)

Eisenhower, on the last leg of a campaign swing through the Western states prior to the 6 November presidential election, was about to land in Denver when he received a message from Washington drawn mostly from press accounts about the Polish situation. It quoted Khrushchev saying to the Polish leaders, "We spilled our blood to liberate this

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country and now you want to turn it over to the Americans." Before leaving the aircraft, Eisenhower telephoned Dulles to discuss the situation; then deplaned to make the following remarks: "We read about Poland in our papers, we read about these captive peoples that are still keeping alive the burning desire to live in freedom, a freedom that we have come to take almost for granted, but which they have found is the most difficult thing to sustain in the world. Our hearts go out to them, that they may at last have that opportunity to live under governments of their own choosing." Later that day the President released a statement noting the numerous reports of Polish unrest and accounts of Soviet troop movements. He said he was in close touch with Dulles and reiterated his sympathy for the Polish people's "traditional yearning for liberty and independence."¹⁰

(U)

Washington's lack of solid information was evident at a special meeting of the interagency Intelligence Advisory Committee (IAC) that afternoon. The minutes noted merely that "members exchanged views on intelligence and information from various sources bearing on developments in Poland and the *apparent* [author's emphasis] crisis in Polish-Soviet relations." CIA Director Allen Dulles later said the CIA's reporting at the meeting "had been fairly good but there were few, if any, contributions from anyone else."¹¹ (U)

That evening Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Robert Murphy summoned Polish Ambassador Romuald Spasowski to the Department to learn more about what was happening. Murphy admitted that "we did not have much official confirmation as yet," only the many newspaper accounts. He asked whether Spasowski considered the reported movement of Soviet tanks toward Warsaw an internal or an

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international affair, indicating that his answer would determine the course of the rest of the conversation. The Ambassador replied, "An international affair." Smiling, Murphy said the conversation would continue. Had Spasowski answered otherwise, it would have ended. However, the Ambassador was of little help. He could not confirm whether Khrushchev had made the statements attributed to him nor could he shed light on Soviet troop movements. But an aide who accompanied him referred to Poland's grave economic difficulties and implied that U.S. assistance would be welcome.¹² (U)

During a nationally televised interview on 21 October, one to which little attention has been given, Secretary Dulles candidly described the administration's cautious approach. Asked what the United States would do if a bloodbath occurred in Poland, he expressed doubt that one would take place: If "you have a whole people rising up, it's unlikely. . . that efforts will be made to put it down by mass military measures. . . what we see going on is part of a process. I don't think this liberation of Poland is going to happen overnight. I think you see there is what I have called the 'yeast' which is working, but I think it will be a process which will not be as spectacular as some newspaper reports seem to suggest." Asked what the United States and its allies would do to hasten this development, he replied; "We have been doing the only thing that can hasten it effectively, in my opinion—that is, to keep alive the idea of freedom, to practice freedom and constantly see that it is brought to the attention of the Polish people." Intervention, meddling, or interference by a foreign country, he pointed out, often proved counter-productive. Freedom was "a contagious thing and if anybody is apt to catch it, it's going to be the Poles." Asked whether the Soviet Union might become so alarmed that it would resort to repression in Poland and elsewhere, Dulles reiterated what

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he had been saying for several months, that the Kremlin's adoption of more liberal policies had created a dilemma: It "had loosed irresistible forces that it would be difficult to halt without resorting to Stalinist practices. . . . a dilemma from which I do not think they can escape." Dulles then made what some observers considered an unfortunate remark in answering a question whether the movement of Soviet troops into Poland would constitute aggression. He replied that under the Warsaw Pact the Soviet Union perhaps "technically" had the right to do so. (U)

Another questioner recalled the lack of U.S. response to the 1953 East German uprising and inquired whether the United States would again "sit back" and allow a similar outcome in Poland. Dulles's answer was unequivocal:

I do not think we would send our own Armed Forces into Poland, or into East Germany under those circumstances. I doubt if that would be a profitable or desirable thing to do. It would be the last thing in the world that these people, who are trying to win their independence, would want. That would precipitate a full-scale world war, and the probable results of that would be all these people would be wiped out.

Instigating military activity was a tricky business, he recalled, as in 1944 when the Soviet Union stirred the Polish underground in Warsaw to revolt only to have it put down by the Germans.¹³ (U)

If military intervention were ruled out, came still another question, what specifically would the United States do? According to one observer Dulles replied "almost apologetically as if fumbling to figure out what could be done" and said that it would be indiscreet to answer the question in full. He briefly mentioned steps being taken to maintain "the love of liberty," such as Voice of America (VOA) and Radio Free Europe broadcasts, as well as leaflets carried into the satellites by balloons.¹⁴ (U)

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Another interviewer wondered about the growth of national communism, pointing out that in Poland one communist government merely seemed to be replacing another. Dulles said the important thing was to see the breakup of the Soviet monolith. Democracy could not be imposed. Many countries had "an internal government that we don't like. That, however, is not a matter for official government action. . . . If we had that test, we would have friendly relations with very few countries." Asked about coordination with the British and French regarding the liberation of Eastern Europe, Dulles thought that "the United States has been more concerned about that than perhaps they have been, and there is some feeling that to press that issue too much might lead to a danger of war in Europe." But he added that the three countries were in broad agreement on policy and "are in closer agreement within the last month or two than we had been at any time within the last few years. Not everyone within the administration agreed with Dulles's approach. At a meeting the next morning, Beam stressed the importance of adhering to the Secretary's position as set forth in the televised interview despite pressure from the U.S. Information Agency (USIA) and others for a "less restrained approach."¹⁵

(U)

Dulles's statements did reflect thinking at State. Its Policy Planning Staff recommended that the United States encourage Poland to become increasingly independent of the Soviet Union and seek to "avert Soviet forceful intervention . . . , which would not only terminate that independence but also might involve a risk of spreading hostilities." One of its members thought the changes in Poland irreversible, short of Soviet reoccupation of the country. More importantly, he said, "the pressures elsewhere to imitate the Poles will be irresistible." He thought it would take a long time:

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If we look for the demise of Communism next year we shall be disappointed. If we are patient, and if nothing happens that the Soviets can construe as a new and important threat to their national security, we have good reason to hope for a desirable modification in the internal operations of the European Soviet bloc. . . . Although there might be many gains for us if we could stir things up to the point of causing direct Soviet intervention, that course would carry very sizable risks. We can make smaller but still substantial gains at virtually no risk. . . .¹⁶ (U)

The crisis passed quickly. By 24 October the bulk of three Soviet mechanized and two tank divisions brought up to the Polish-East German border had returned to their home stations. Engineer bridging equipment, according to U.S. military intelligence reports, remained in assembly areas near the Oder River, suggesting possible use if needed.¹⁷ (U)

There was concern that Moscow might change its mind. The British Ambassador in Warsaw believed the Poles had dealt the Soviets "a notable diplomatic defeat," but it "hardly seems credible that the Russians could put up with such a snub, both because of the repercussions among the other satellites, and because of the vital strategic importance of Poland to the Soviet bloc." Both he and U.S. Ambassador Joseph Jacobs believed the Soviet loss of prestige "should be played down, for the obvious reason that they might feel more inclined to intervene with force if their discomfiture were rubbed in"¹⁸ (U)

In Washington top officials reportedly said that the time might come, perhaps in six months, when Poland would ask the United States to help reduce its economic dependence on the Soviet Union, but "right now United States and other Western leaders had better keep quiet about it." Taking quick action would make it easier for Moscow to denounce Gomulka "as a tool of United States imperialism." They doubted whether the Soviet Union would use force to topple him. "Moscow's alternative to forceful action,"

they believed, was "to sit by while one satellite after another follows the example of Poland to the limit of its possibilities." This probably would not "mean the end of Soviet influence in the area, but Soviet power will be greatly weakened."¹⁹ (U)

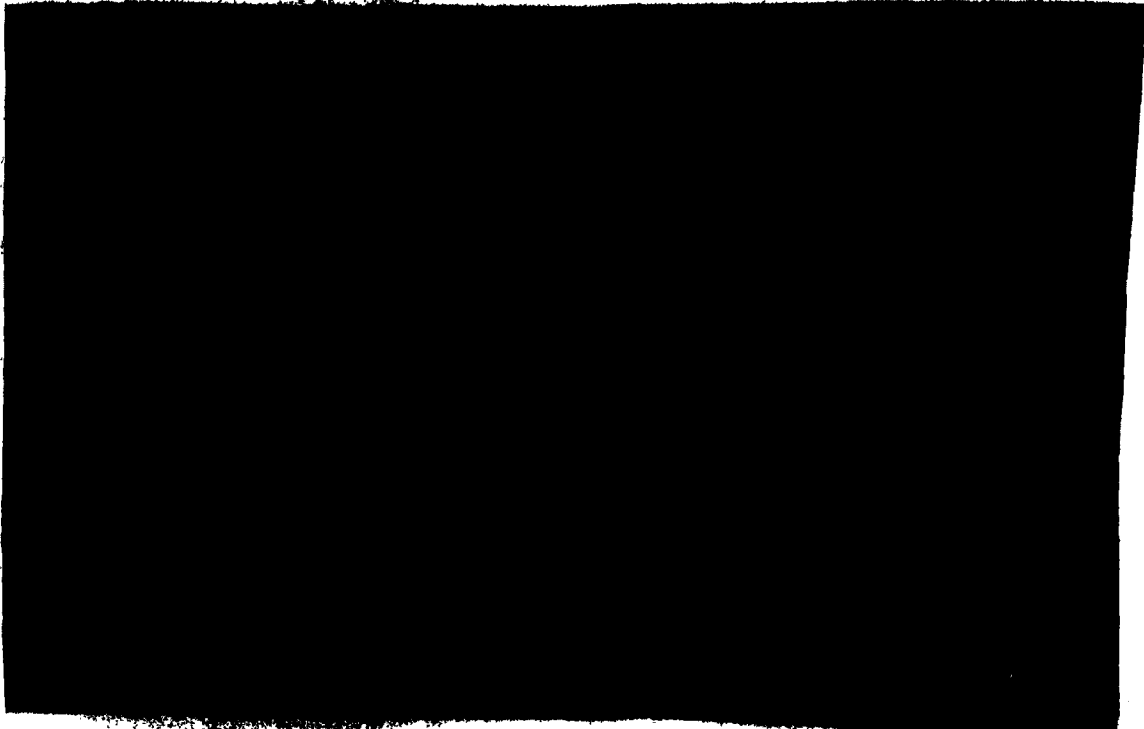
Eisenhower did not wait to hint at what the United States could offer. In a campaign speech the evening of 23 October he noted that discontent, unrest, riots, and demonstrations would continue in the satellite states "until the tyranny exercised over them either dissolves or is expelled. The day of liberation may be postponed where armed forces for a time make protest suicidal." The mission of the United States was "to help those freedom-loving peoples who need and want and can profitably use our aid that they may advance in their ability for self-support and may add strength to the security and peace of the free world."²⁰ (U)

State officials felt that the President had made only an offer of economic aid. In retrospect, though, it is easy to understand how people in Eastern Europe could interpret the remarks and the one he made at a rally two nights later, that the United States had never forgotten them "nor ever will," as meaning something more. For the administration the immediate question was how to convey the offer of economic aid privately to the Gomulka government. State favored making the approach through the Embassy in Warsaw, because calling in Spasowski would create too much press notice. A discreet approach in Warsaw would likely generate less publicity. Moreover, Spasowski was regarded as an old-line Stalinist. "We could not be sure that his report to the Polish Government in Warsaw would be accurate and according to our desires. He apparently has very close relations with the Soviet Ambassador, and he would probably inform him

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at once of our approach so that the Soviet Government would be apprised of it from here."²¹ (U)

Just a few days before the Polish crisis erupted, Eisenhower had announced that the United States, despite considerable Congressional opposition, would continue providing military assistance to Yugoslavia. The administration now saw the events in Poland as vindication of that support. Dulles had long believed that Yugoslavia's independence from Moscow should be encouraged, a policy the Truman administration had begun, because other communist countries would follow its example. The White House issued a statement that "the President's insistence on continued aid to Yugoslavia reflects itself in the Polish situation and in other unrest in other satellite nations." Under Secretary Murphy declared that the aid "helped to bring about some loosening of the bonds upon the once-free nations of Eastern Europe" and created "problems for the Communist leaders which they have not yet been able to resolve."²² (U)



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Gomułka and the Poles took the initial step

[REDACTED] thereby raising Hungarians' expectations of what they, too, could achieve.

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Without the Polish example there likely would have been no Hungarian revolution. (See table 1) Even before the standoff in Warsaw, Hungarian students, wanting to show solidarity with participants in the Poznań disorders awaiting trial, planned sympathy demonstrations that included demands for democratic reforms in Hungary. As a

Table 1. Hungarians' Reasons for Attempting an Uprising*

	<u>Most Important</u>	<u>Next Important</u>
Example of Poland	40	17
Rehabilitation of Rajk and others	18	24
Soviet Leaders' Denunciation of Stalin	12	16
Encouragement from the West	11	13
Relaxation of Russian Control	9	14
Example of Yugoslavia	6	7
Don't know	8	12
TOTAL PERCENT†	104	103
TOTAL NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS	1,107	1,107

 The responses shown were to Question 8: "Now here are some things that have been suggested as reasons why people in Hungary were willing to attempt an uprising. (CARD) Which one of these, in your opinion, was most important in the minds of the Hungarians? Which one was next most important?"

† Percentages total more than 100% since some respondents gave more than one answer.
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further display of solidarity, students in Budapest organized a march on 23 October to the statue of Joseph Bem, a Polish hero of the 1848 Hungarian revolt. The march turned into a massive public demonstration. There soon followed the outbreak of violence that led to the return to power of former Prime Minister Imre Nagy, who, like Gomulka, had been ousted from the communist party; the new government requested Soviet forces stationed in Hungary to quell the disturbance. (U)

Thus began the Hungarian revolution, lasting 12 days and passing through several phases. In this important respect, it differed from the recent troubles in Poznań and Warsaw and the 1953 violent outbursts in Czechoslovakia and East Germany, all of which were almost over by the time the outside world digested what was happening.

For the Soviet leadership, experience with the Polish defiance represented a kind of dress rehearsal for what would occur in Hungary.²⁴ And it gave Washington an opportunity to consider what action it might take if a similar situation developed in the region, enabling it to respond more quickly than it otherwise might to the outbreak of violence in Budapest. But the follow-on after the initial response posed problems. However ready Washington may have been for another flare-up likely to be snuffed out as quickly as before, none of its planning envisioned a prolonged struggle that would almost succeed in replacing a communist government with a democratic one. Nor apparently did any other country, including the Soviet Union.

The Budapest Legation's Performance

Journalists who witnessed the revolution and even members of the U.S. Legation in Budapest have suggested that the United States might have responded more vigorously

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to the revolution if the Legation had performed better.²⁵ The criticism seems unwarranted. It is difficult to identify what could have been done differently. Any diplomatic mission required to function in the midst of major violence inevitably encounters trouble. The Legation in Budapest, located on the Pest side of the Danube near Parliament Square where much fighting took place, was no exception.²⁶ (U)

It also had to contend with unusual technical and personnel problems. What most hindered its effectiveness was the severance of communication with the outside world for two long stretches during the first week of the revolution. Unlike the British--the only Western staff with their own wireless transmitter, the Americans relied on a leased land-line to send encrypted communications to Washington. The Hungarian Government had not permitted them to operate their own equipment because the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) had refused similar rights for the Hungarian Legation in Washington. Within hours of the outbreak of violence, Budapest's telegraph and telephone communications with the outside world were cut. Nevertheless, the staff continued to prepare cables. Because few reached Washington, Second Secretary Thomas Rogers and Assistant Army Attaché Captain Thomas Gleason brought copies to Vienna on 29 October for the Embassy there to transmit.²⁷ Until then, the Legation was virtually inaudible as far as Washington was concerned. (U)

Another shortcoming involved the staff's ability to communicate with the local population. Though a few of the attachés and political officers had a smattering of Hungarian, the Legation had a shortage of fluent speakers. One [REDACTED] with native command of the language, Vice Consul Ernest Nagy, was transferred in

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September, leaving only Press Officer Anton Nyerges [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] with that capability.²⁸ (U)

The Legation's lack of leadership has been questioned. Its approximately 30 members represented the largest staff among the Western missions in Budapest,²⁹ but it was without a chief in the period leading up to and during much of the revolution. After 4 ½ years service in Hungary, Minister Christian Ravndal was transferred in August 1956. His replacement, Edwin Wailes, then serving as Ambassador in South Africa, was appointed Minister in late July but did not leave Washington until 30 October, arriving in Budapest on 2 November just before the second Soviet intervention. (U)

Some have viewed the delay as a sign of Washington's disinterest in Hungary or even mismanagement by the Department of State. One writer contended that Wailes "had been kicking his heels, pottering around in his Washington rose garden since August."³⁰ None of this was true. Wailes himself was primarily responsible for the delay. A veteran Foreign Service officer with the rank of Ambassador,* he became upset and threatened to retire when State asked him to take the lesser Hungary position. Although the Department said it was anxious to strengthen its representation there in view of recent Soviet bloc developments, Wailes felt that it had decided to move someone else to South Africa and was merely "scratching" for a place to put him. State's personnel director urged him to reconsider and said that Dulles and others considered him "one of the most valuable officers" in the Foreign Service. He pointed out that the "rapidly changing situation" in Eastern Europe promised to make Hungary a "challenging and interesting" post, and

* Wailes entered the Foreign Service in 1929 and served in China, Belgium and Luxembourg, Canada, North Africa, and Great Britain. He also held several administrative positions within the Department of State before being named to his first ambassadorial post in South Africa in September 1954.

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added, "Please don't let us down." Wailes exacted a price for changing his mind. He requested permission to return to the United States by sea, and as he put it, thereby receive "18 days rest, as I have had little time off in many years." He planned to report to the Department for consultation the day after Labor Day, 4 September. After that, he hoped for a week's language training to brush up on French, which would be "followed by about a month's leave." His swearing in as minister to Hungary was scheduled for 4 October. These activities account for about two months of the delay. When he was in fact sworn in and why he did not leave in early or mid-October is not known, but on 25 October State informed the Legation in Budapest that he had applied for visas and would be departing in a week or ten days.³¹ (U)

The delay may not have seemed a problem if the official serving in the interim had been a stronger personality. In the absence of a minister, Counselor N. Spencer Barnes headed the Legation as Chargé d'Affaires. Experienced in Soviet bloc affairs, he had held posts in Moscow, Teheran, and Berlin before coming to Budapest in January 1955. Though intellectually sharp and a gifted writer, he was almost universally regarded as a timid man. The interim nature of his position did not improve matters. A colleague considered him lacking in "rank, weight, or appreciable powers, and for that reason he was exceedingly cautious, weak, and soft. He did not take any action when the situation demanded it." An example cited of Barnes's timidity—and it seems misplaced—was his butler's hanging, apparently on his own initiative, a white flag from Barnes's residence during the 23 October demonstrations. Nyerges heard about the flag and rushed to the house to take it down. One journalist observed that "the incident did not say much for American resolve." In fact, however, it reflected the butler's lack of resolve, not that of

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Barnes or the United States. Another colleague compared Barnes unfavorably to Ravndal, "a decisive, vigorous, gutsy fellow" whose "word was listened to in Washington." He was certain that if Ravndal had been in Budapest during the revolution the United States "would have reacted quite differently."³² However, given the lengthy breakdowns in communication, it is hard to see how someone else would have made any difference. (U)

Moreover, the Legation's messages reflected anything but timidity, often including bold recommendations for action. Perhaps this is because Rogers did much of the drafting. Anything he drafted was of course subject to Barnes's revision and approval, but he recalled that Barnes did not often disapprove.³³ (U)

During the fighting Legation staff had frequent contacts with participants that shaped the nature of its recommendations. After its members witnessed the fighting at the Hungarian radio building the evening of 23 October and Nagy's speech in Parliament Square that badly disappointed the crowd, it strongly urged that U.S. media for the time being avoid "taking any kind of stand on Imre Nagy." Reflecting the views of a crowd demonstrating outside the Legation a few days later, it urged that the Soviet intervention be brought before the United Nations. It also proposed that Washington issue a high-level statement of sympathy and suggested the statement's text.³⁴ (U)

Hungarians were not reluctant to ask for help. On the evening of 25 October a man broke into the garden of Rogers's home. Admitted to the home by the children, he told Mrs. Rogers that he had a message for transmission to the United Nations, the contents of which she promptly telephoned to the Legation. Signed by the "fighting youth organization," it recapitulated in detail events of the last few days and appealed for the UN to discuss the Soviet intervention.³⁵ The same evening another man left at the

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Legation door a leaflet signed by the new provisional revolutionary government and civil defense committee. It listed 17 demands, including the end of martial law, the "immediate termination" of the Warsaw Pact, a general political amnesty, and the establishment of socialism based on true democracy. He came the next day and said he had headed a delegation that met the night before with Nagy who had agreed to all their demands.³⁶ (U)

Shortly after midnight on 2 November, three young men came to the Legation and asked that an urgent message be sent to Washington requesting support of their cause at the United Nations. They wanted to unite all the rebel groups and have one representative from each appointed as an overseer in every major government department. They wanted use of a Legation car or help in getting the minutes of their meetings to Gyor, where they could be printed as leaflets and distributed by aircraft over Budapest. The youths asked that details of their negotiations with government leaders be brought to Washington's attention and demanded the intervention of UN forces.³⁷ (C)

The Legation also made efforts to reach out to the Hungarian government. Since the lack of communication with Washington deprived it of official instructions, it took the initiative on 28 October to telephone the Foreign Ministry with a proposal for a ceasefire. It wanted to bring about a compromise between the insurgent groups and the government to end the bloodshed. Speaking to the Deputy Foreign Minister, the Legation's representative--either Barnes or Rogers--said that the bloodshed was regrettable, that a "ceasefire seemed desirable, and speaking purely unofficially we would assume that any foreign Legation, including this one, would be glad to do whatever" was practical to end the fighting. The Hungarian official appreciated the thought, but said

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nothing could be done since the insurgents were being crushed and made clear he had no intention of dealing with them. The Legation believed it advisable not to spurn the approaches by the insurgent groups in order to improve the chances for the government to negotiate with them and asked for State's advice. But State felt that no specific response to these approaches was necessary.³⁸ (U)

On another occasion, Rogers attempted to obtain the British Legation's agreement for a joint proposal that a left-of-center coalition government be established which would include Nagy and members of the Social Democratic Party, one which Moscow might accept, but the British Minister wanted a more right-wing coloration and Rogers was not sure that the proposal was forwarded to London.³⁹ (U)

The military attaches were active. On 30 October Air Attaché Colonel Welwyn Dallam talked with the government's chief of military protocol, who said the government's aim was to establish an independent, socialist state similar to Yugoslavia. Dallam, pessimistic, felt that the Soviet Union would "settle for nothing less" than the complete crushing of the revolution, continued Communist political control of the government, and continued Soviet military occupation. He said that the Hungarian people "of both sides," apparently referring to government supporters and rebels, were "looking to UN for action."⁴⁰ (U)

The author of the CIA's internal history of its role in the revolution was not impressed with the Legation's performance. From his standpoint, its reporting had less value than that of Western journalists because it had a narrower range of contacts. While some active participants in the revolution did come into the Legation, "these were naturally not of our choosing and in many cases were justifiably open to some suspicion."

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Moreover, the reporting "was at best sporadic and laced with premature analysis and assumptions (of the sort that diplomats feel their government stands in need of)."⁴¹ (U)

Despite criticisms from various sources and taking into account the difficulties it faced, on the whole the staff performed well. That it did not have a greater influence on shaping policy in Washington resulted more from the break in communications with Washington than from its own shortcomings. (U)

Leading at the UN

The United States has also been criticized for a lack of interest, even opposition, to raising the Hungarian question at the United Nations.⁴² This was not true, at least at first, as the State Department had to pressure the British and French to get the matter on the Security Council's agenda. Some have charged that the administration's main motive was to gain the support of voters of East European descent in the presidential election. The evidence indicates the opposite. Motives were mixed, but Eisenhower and Dulles seemed genuinely concerned about the Hungarian situation and wanted to avoid even the appearance that UN consideration was designed to attract voters. (U)

Although State had decided during the summer not to bring the Poznań disturbance before the UN, that course of action remained an option if similar situations developed. On 23 October its Policy Planning Staff was in fact considering a UN appeal in case the Soviet Union changed its mind and decided to intervene militarily in Poland.⁴³ This facilitated its turning to the UN as the initial response to Soviet intervention in Hungary. Moreover, since the UN had been wrestling for several weeks with the question of Egypt's nationalization of the Suez Canal, attention had been focused on it as a possible arbiter in international disputes. (U)

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There was another reason for prompt action--others were demanding it. The Hungarian National Council in New York on 25 October sent telegrams to Dulles and to UN Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld asking that Hungary be placed on the Security Council's agenda. That evening Dulles broached the idea with Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge. "From a political standpoint," the Secretary worried about people saying that "here are the great moments and when they came and these fellows were ready to stand up and die, we were caught napping and doing nothing." He raised the possibility of acting as early as the next day and having the British and French join in the U.S. initiative.⁴⁴ (U)

Dulles discussed the matter with his brother Allen, Director of Central Intelligence, expressing concern that Hungarian émigrés "might jump the gun—by going to the UN via the Latinos." He told the President that State was seeking British and French support, but he doubted they would want to act quickly. If action was not taken the next day (Friday, 26 October), the Secretary wondered whether it was worth doing at all—a remark apparently reflecting his concern that over the weekend Soviet forces would be able to put down the trouble. Eisenhower was willing to wait until Monday to gain multilateral support and avoid the impression that the United States was raising the issue for domestic political reasons. Dulles doubted if other NATO countries, especially the major ones, would "come along with us—as they will interpret it as being an election move." But the President did not want to act alone—"some agreement from our allies no matter who puts it in would take the noose off." Both men agreed that raising the matter in the UN was a close call. "The worst thing," Eisenhower said, would "to be thought of as guilty of spurious interest."⁴⁵ (U)

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Dulles then called Lodge to inquire about circulating to the signatories of the 1947 Hungarian Peace Treaty a letter condemning the Soviet invasion and sounding them out on possible further action. State had drafted such a letter stressing the Soviet intervention but not criticizing the Hungarian government. If the signatories opposed further action, Dulles said, "at least we would have a reason for not acting." Lodge suggested that they try first for a resolution and failing that settle for a letter.⁴⁶ (U)

State's Bureau of International Organization Affairs (IO), unsure of the benefits of UN involvement in East European troubles, feared that "over-zealous activity on our part could stimulate counter-action and resentment that would defeat our objectives of encouraging the satellites to loosen their ties with Moscow." But "silence might be subject to misinterpretation. At the least, we must continue to make clear by appropriate and timely statements our readiness to extend assistance if desired and our championship of the cause of human freedom. . . ." The strongest action the Security Council might take would be to exhort the contending sides to stop fighting and/or to establish an ad hoc investigative committee to prepare the way for further Council action, if necessary. If the Soviet Union exercised its veto, "the uniting for peace machinery could be utilized to move the case to the General Assembly."* In any event, IO felt that the United States should take the initiative and persuade others to join; "a small-power initiative would be less likely to succeed, and we would be regarded as having employed a stooge and as not having the courage of our convictions."⁴⁷ (U)

Already at work on the matter, the mission in New York concluded that any UN involvement was unlikely to change "the immediate course of events," so the object had

* [Korean War Uniting for peace machinery]

to be psychological. It should provide the widest possible expression of moral support to the Hungarian people and other satellite peoples, an opportunity for 'exposing Soviet actions completely,' and "a basis for keeping open the possibility of needling the Soviets in future." Any "resolution calling for UN action must be mild enough to avoid the charge that it is merely a Cold War move, flexible enough to accommodate changes in the Hungarian situation, and broad enough to permit a complete exposé of Soviet actions." In any event, the likelihood of a veto by the Soviet Union in the Security Council would not be considered a deterrent.⁴⁸ (U)

On the contrary, the U.S. Mission staff in New York felt a veto would increase U.S. prestige and particularly enhance the organization's standing in the eyes of the satellite peoples. It preferred a mild resolution which would receive fairly widespread support, "particularly if action [were] taken expeditiously while public interest is high." It also favored sending observers if the Hungarian Government approved, or at least to neighboring countries to interview refugees. "We could announce we were not courting a veto, that we did not want a cold war item, that we wanted real results. . . ." Whoever cleared the message for transmission to Washington added, "Recommend prompt action. We will get maximum support if we strike while iron is hot." The mission's draft resolution called for appointment of a committee consisting of Australia, Iran, and Yugoslavia to investigate the situation and report at the earliest practicable date.⁴⁹ It did not specifically mention sending observers to Hungary, but the committee would presumably have to do this as part of its investigation. (U)

To secure multilateral support State that evening approached the five peace treaty signatories, along with France, seeking their backing for either circulating a letter within

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the Security Council or submitting a resolution. One Council member, Yugoslavia, was a special case that State feared might find it awkward to support either step, given its special relationship with the Soviet Union and the possibility the two governments were already discussing the Hungarian situation. Not wanting to exclude Yugoslavia and thereby prejudice its position, State left the decision up to the U.S. Ambassador in Belgrade as to whether and how to approach the government. It also sent its initial thoughts on the fighting in Budapest for communication to Belgrade, noting that it did not expect unarmed Hungarians to be able to defeat the Soviet forces. Under the circumstances, it wanted to minimize the bloodshed, keep the Hungarian Government from taking reprisals, "and (assuming it still has some good-will with populace) encourage it [to] proceed with rapid democratization." The Yugoslavs could facilitate this process by lending support or using their influence with Moscow. However, when the Ambassador informally raised with the Yugoslav Foreign Ministry the idea of joint UN action with the Western powers, it made clear its unwillingness to join them.⁵⁰ (U)

Washington's close allies eventually went along with the proposal, but with reservations. Canada's Secretary of State for External Affairs, Lester Pearson, favored UN consideration because it might prevent further bloodshed, but warned against rash intervention in Eastern Europe that might hurt the Poles and Hungarians "by provoking a cruel and powerful reaction from those who may be waiting for an opportunity to move in and destroy these new liberating and national forces, using the excuse of foreign threats or interference from our side." The French Foreign Ministry said that it was essential that the resolution "not contain any disposition which may disturb our actions in

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Algeria and our relationship with Morocco and Tunisia. We are particularly against the formation of a committee of inquiry."⁵¹ (U)

The British presented a bigger stumbling block. Although the Prime Minister's office expressed "sympathy and admiration" for the insurgents' struggle and announced a donation of money to the International Red Cross for medical and other supplies, the Foreign Office was reluctant to take a strong public stance of support. The press quoted authoritative sources in London as believing that direct Western intervention "would certainly lead to harsher punitive measures" by the Soviet Union in Hungary and other satellites and "could also lead to war." British officials recalled the warning Khrushchev had made when he visited England in April that the Soviet Union would fight to retain control of its position in Central Europe.⁵² (U)

The Foreign Office preferred not to raise the matter in the Security Council and instead wanted to wait until the opening of the General Assembly regular session on 12 November, where it felt a fuller debate could take place. Discussion there would make clear the West's interest in the Hungarian situation while "gaining time to decide how to play our hand in the Assembly in the light of the way in which events turn out in Hungary over the next two weeks." It considered the Western position in the Security Council weak. The Soviet Union could exercise a veto and also justifiably argue that the Hungarian Government had requested help in dealing with an internal revolt, a matter outside UN jurisdiction. Since "no large scale troop movements have taken place," the British said, it would be difficult to contend that a threat to international peace had arisen. In a telling comment as events would prove, the Foreign Office believed that Security

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Council inscription would "encourage the Hungarians to needless self-slaughter" and the Soviets "to be rougher and tougher than they already are." (U)

The excuses went on. Taking the matter up in the Security Council would imply that the United States and Great Britain were "conniving" with the rebels. Moreover, the General Assembly was a better place to raise the issue since smaller and neutral nations would be more inclined to speak out. Finally, delaying debate until the second week of November would assure the Soviet Union that the West had no intention of intervening, which for the rebels was "the kindest message" the West could give. But the question had to be handled carefully in the General Assembly so as not to prejudice the British presence in Cyprus. As the U.S. Embassy in London observed, even though a Soviet veto would keep the Security Council from acting, the mere suggestion would disturb the British Government, which had "its hands full in Suez and feels [a] shortage of friends."⁵³ (U)

Dulles told the President he planned to send a personal message to Foreign Secretary Selwyn Lloyd urging prompt inscription on the Security Council agenda. He would tell Lloyd that focusing attention on Hungary would discourage the Soviet Union from carrying out widespread reprisals and would "give us a chance to talk privately with them" at the UN. Such talks were nothing new. Following Stalin's death in March 1953, when the collective Soviet leadership signaled a willingness to negotiate on outstanding international issues, U.S. and Soviet diplomats at the UN had engaged in informal but fruitless contacts.⁵⁴ The President suggested that Lloyd be told that the situation was "so terrible that we would be remiss if we did not do something." In a message to Lloyd sent later that evening, Dulles pointed out that the revolt was assuming proportions that might

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bring a major Soviet intervention. The "emotional reaction" in the United States, he stated, would certainly be quite serious. It was most important to focus attention on Hungary promptly and at the same time to create an opportunity for informal discussions with Soviet UN representatives.⁵⁵ (U)

Dulles's message led to a British about-face, with Lloyd now agreeing to join in the Security Council action. Whether the reversal had anything to do with the military measures Britain, France, and Israel were secretly planning to take against Egypt is not known.* The decision may also have resulted from a report from Budapest the previous day that 2,000 demonstrators had gathered outside the British Legation, and that some who entered the building had asked that their request be passed to London for the UN to take up the question of the Soviet intervention. Not only did the British now favor Security Council action, they wanted a meeting held the next day, a Sunday, because they maintained that quick action would bolster the morale of the Hungarian people and limit time for the Soviet Union and the Hungarian Government to counterattack. France wanted to meet even earlier--that afternoon or evening--but agreed on Sunday to allow the delegations time to prepare. Lodge felt that they should avoid a call for a cease-fire that might allow the Soviet forces and Hungarian Government a chance to consolidate their positions. The British and French agreed and reiterated their objections to any resolution that mentioned a commission of inquiry, which might embarrass the British in Cyprus and the French in Algeria.⁵⁶ (U)

State wanted the meeting limited to quick adoption of the agenda without any substantive debate. Expecting the Soviet representative to object violently, it cautioned

* Representatives of the three countries had met at Sèvres outside Paris on 24 October to make final arrangements for the attack on Egypt.

Lodge not to engage in rebuttals, but to say that in view of the urgency of the situation, the United States did not wish to submit a resolution and reserved the right to deal with any Soviet charges at a later meeting. This would allow flexibility to determine a precise course of action and the kind of resolution to be submitted later. It also reminded Lodge that it needed more information from Budapest, from which it had been cut off, and that any decision on a course of action would require concurrence at the highest level in Washington.⁵⁷ (U)

A Washington journalist noted that although the appeal to the Security Council was taken at U.S. initiative and there was "an intense desire here to assist the insurgents, it is still limited by a certain caution." Russia would "not easily tolerate anything but a Communist government in Hungary and that therefore any Western action should, if possible, avoid provoking the Russians further or suggest to them that the West is attempting to bolster a hostile State within the political boundaries that Russia has hitherto considered essential for her security. The State Department is apparently still seeking a way of offering the Russians a manner of withdrawal that will not be too humiliating."⁵⁸ (U)

At the Security Council's 28 October meeting, the first time since the Korean War that it had convened on a Sunday, Soviet representative Arkady Sobolev argued against including Hungary on the agenda on the ground that it constituted interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign nation. The Western powers, he said, sought to encourage a reactionary underground movement bent on overthrowing the legally constituted government. He claimed a speech Secretary Dulles had given in Dallas the previous evening had "plainly called for the replacement of the existing Hungarian Government by

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another." Over Sobolev's protest, the Council voted 9-1, with Yugoslavia abstaining, to place the item on the agenda. By the same vote, it rejected his proposal to adjourn for three or four days to allow members to obtain more information.⁵⁹ (U)

In the discussion that followed, Lodge defended action by the UN, quoted extensively from Dulles's speech, and briefly recapitulated events, closing with a reference to contradictory reports that the Hungarian Government had begun negotiations with the Soviet Union to withdraw its troops, but also that new Soviet forces had entered the country and that large-scale fighting had broken out. When the meeting adjourned, it was left to the Council President's discretion when to call another.⁶⁰ (U)

It took the Security Council five days to convene a meeting intended only to raise the question. Given the time required for this initial step and the confused situation within Hungary, it is difficult to agree with those who later contended that the UN during these first few days should have dispatched Secretary General Hammarskjöld to see first-hand what was going on.⁶¹ It would have been virtually impossible to get agreement to do so. And no one was even suggesting it at this point. (U)

Washington's Policy Takes Shape

Eager to have the Security Council take up the Hungarian question as a multilateral initiative, Eisenhower was in no hurry to do much else alone. His deliberateness stemmed in part from the uncertainty surrounding the situation and in part from his customary cautious approach to decision-making. Although Poland and Hungary were not on the agenda of the NSC's 26 October meeting, Allen Dulles brought them up during his briefing on world developments. Discussion proceeded in a curious way.

Deputy Secretary Reuben Robertson, attending in Secretary of Defense Charles Wilson's

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absence, apparently said nothing, and JCS Chairman Admiral Arthur Radford's only contribution was raising a question about the American Communist Party's reaction to the East European events. Secretary Dulles's remarks were few. The President, Allen Dulles, and disarmament adviser Harold Stassen dominated the discussion. In summarizing developments in Hungary, Allen Dulles said that it was "too early to reach any firm conclusions," but thought "the revolt constituted the most serious threat yet to be posed to continued Soviet control of the satellites." (U)

The discussion brought out the major reason for Eisenhower's hesitancy—his fear of provoking the Soviet Union into rash action. He wondered whether the Kremlin's leaders, "in view of the serious deterioration of their position in the satellites, might . . . resort to very serious measures and even to precipitate global war." When Germany faced certain defeat near the end of World War II, Hitler "had carried on to the very last and pulled down Europe with him." Soviet leaders, the President thought, might do something similar. Responding to his concerns, Stassen wondered about getting a message to Minister of Defense Marshal Georgii Zhukov that the Soviet Union should not look on freedom in the satellites as a threat to Soviet security. "We should make clear," said Stassen, "that this development would not impel the Western powers to make any warlike move against the Soviet Union." Eisenhower did not think such a step worthwhile, because he doubted whether the Soviet leaders really feared a Western attack. (U)

Stassen had suggested that in view of the significance of the satellite developments the President might want to call a special NSC meeting. Eisenhower, however, preferred to have the interested departments and agencies first analyze the

situation and then present their findings to the NSC. This was "better than to plunge right into a discussion in the Council on these difficult subjects." But he set no deadline for them to accomplish this task before the next regularly scheduled meeting on 1 November.⁶² (U)

Greatly worried about the Soviet reaction, after the meeting Eisenhower warned Radford and Allen Dulles to stay "unusually watchful and alert.". At Radford's request the Joint Chiefs discussed the possibility that a "serious defeat by the Soviets [in the satellites] could conceivably result in precipitous action on their part." The Defense Department adopted alert measures, including notification of the U.S. Commander in Chief, Europe (USCINCEUR), General Alfred Gruenther.⁶³ (S)

Stassen persisted. In a letter to Eisenhower that afternoon, he apologized for not making his views clearer at the NSC meeting. Soviet leaders, he believed, "may calculate that if they lose control of Hungary, that country would be taken into NATO by the United States, and this would be a great threat in Soviet eyes to their own security. May it not be wise for the United States in some manner to make it clear that we are willing to have Hungary be established on the Austrian basis -- independent -- and not affiliated with NATO?" That afternoon he also met with Secretary Dulles and reiterated his idea "that we should let the Russians know that we would accept for the satellites some neutralized status like that of Austria" and suggested that it be done "through diplomatic channels or through Tito." Dulles doubted "that it was desirable to use any such channels as the Russians could publicize what was happening and give the revolutionary elements the impression that we were working secretly with the Russians behind their backs." But he would think about some other way to get the idea across, although he was unsure whether

"we should go so far as to commit these countries to an Austria type neutralization."⁶⁴

Dulles told the President he was reluctant to follow up on the suggestion unless it went through the Security Council where "we could have some backstage talks going on during the time the Council was in session, which would be more or less legitimate."⁶⁵

(U)

Dulles adopted Stassen's suggestion in part. He added language to his speech in Dallas on 27 October, assuring the Soviet Union that the United States had no military interest in either Poland or Hungary:

And let me make this clear, beyond a possibility of a doubt: The United States has no ulterior purpose in desiring the independence of the satellite countries. Our unadulterated wish is that these peoples, from whom so much of our own national life derives, should have sovereignty restored to them and that they should have governments of their own free choosing. We do not look upon these nations as potential military allies. We see them as friends and as part of a new and friendly and no longer divided Europe.

He cleared this passage with the President and asked his brother and the CIA's Deputy Director for Intelligence Robert Amory to go over the final draft with a small group of State Department officials, none of whom objected to the part reassuring the Soviet Union.⁶⁶ (U)

In the speech Dulles also said that those "who peacefully enjoy liberty" had a duty "to seek, by all truly helpful means, that those who now die for freedom will not have died in vain." He spoke of help the United States might provide and made clear that it was economic, not military:

The captive peoples should never have reason to doubt that they have in us a sincere and dedicated friend who shares their aspirations. They must know that they can draw upon our abundance to tide themselves over the period of economic adjustment which is inevitable as they rededicate their productive efforts to the service of their own people, rather than of

exploiting masters. Nor do we condition economic ties between us upon the adoption by these countries of any particular form of society.⁶⁷ (U)

Other assurances came from an unlikely source--Secretary of Defense Wilson, whose indiscreet public remarks on more than one occasion in the past had aroused the President's ire.⁶⁸ Appearing on 28 October on the same television interview program that Dulles had a week before and speaking with the tact of a diplomat, Wilson said he did not think developments in Poland and Hungary would cause any revision in the U.S. defense posture. Like Dulles, he explicitly ruled out American military involvement. An interviewer mentioned the rebels' pleas for Western help. "Is there any way," he asked, "that the United States and its NATO allies could assist these people who are fighting for freedom?" Wilson replied:

The American people are very sympathetic with the people of any land that are trying to throw off tyranny and oppression and assert their freedom and their right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. When it comes to intervention, that's a much more difficult thing. We deplore bloodshed in any of these things and hope that they can be solved, and many times they are, by men of good will finally asserting a position in various places over the world, and in the light of world public opinion, work something out that is just and fair. (U)

An interviewer mentioned Adlai Stevenson's charge that the East European turmoil had caught the administration off guard. Wilson disagreed, pointing out that the world's trouble spots were well-known but it took time to deal with them. Did the United States have any idea about the timing of the Polish crisis or the Hungarian rebellion? In that kind of situation, Wilson observed, it was impossible to "tell within a day or month or even sometimes within a year; but potentially the thing was there, because—to hold peoples with long records of freedom under tyrannical domination for any great length of time through the years, is almost impossible." Asked whether the Republican Party had

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contributed to the unrest in Eastern Europe, Wilson answered unequivocally, "I would say not." When the moderator pressed him, referring to statements by Republican spokesmen that this was the case, Wilson said that such statements "wouldn't be correct, exactly. The fact that we haven't gotten into any more trouble in the world, or lost out, I could say, that the Administration deserves some credit for, but the exact timing of the— of the business, I would say we had nothing to do with it." Another questioner jumped in: "Well, you would not feel, then, as Mr. Dulles says—said he feels, that the Eisenhower administration's stubborn insistence on the idea of the eventual liberation of peoples held under foreign domination—that their refusal to give Soviet tyranny a good name by making agreements and sitting down time and again with them, has held the hope of freedom alive in those countries." Wilson replied that he certainly agreed with Dulles. "But as for the planning of any particular event at any particular time, we had no hand in that." Did the United States have agents inside Hungary that started the rebellion? Wilson replied, "Not to my knowledge, certainly." (U)

Questioning reverted to military assistance. Had the provision of military equipment to Yugoslavia over the years encouraged the Hungarians to revolt? Wilson was not sure: "It possibly has, because they have a clear example of another nation, another people that have asserted their independence from Moscow in spite of their Communist type of society." Before the discussion turned to other subjects, a question was put directly to the Secretary: "Have you seen anything within your Department where there is a suggestion of arms aid to the Hungarians if they make this rebellion stick?" Wilson's replied firmly: "No, I have not."⁶⁹ (U)

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Other comments by Defense officials reported in the press painted a bleak picture of the rebels' chances. Under such headlines as "Pentagon Sees Hungarians in Losing Battle" and "Reds Can Quell Revolt in a Few Days," the *Chicago Tribune* cited unnamed Pentagon sources as saying the rebels lacked the "tight military organization, weapons and supply lines plus outside support necessary for victory over the Russians." Little wonder that students in a northwestern Hungarian town reported receiving word from sources along the Austrian border that "military aid from NATO countries appeared to be hopelessly out of the question," although no one knew why.⁷⁰ (U)

In the absence of an NSC decision, the closest thing to a statement of policy came in a paper prepared on 28 October by Richard Davis of State's Policy Planning Staff, whose recommended courses of action Dulles approved the following day. As Davis saw it, the principal U.S. objective regarding the satellites was "to encourage, as a first step toward eventual full national independence and freedom, the emergence of 'national' communist governments. While they might continue to be in close political and military alliance with the Soviet Union, they would be able to exercise to a much greater degree of independent authority and control than formerly in the direction of their own affairs, primarily confined in the first stage to their internal affairs." The rapid pace of developments in Hungary and lack of reliable first-hand information, Davis felt, made it difficult to foresee the course of events. Citing confirmed reports that additional Soviet troops were entering the country, Davis found it difficult to believe that the Soviet Union, after committing itself so deeply to intervention, "could disengage its forces until order is reestablished under a Hungarian Government willing and able to maintain its military and political alliance with the USSR." He believed that the basic objectives and conclusions

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of the NSC paper adopted in July remained valid, but he advanced several additional tentative conclusions and courses of action. He argued that any U.S. intervention, either unilaterally or with other countries, would precipitate "a major crisis with the Soviet Union and possibly the outbreak of general war." The United States and other countries should instead try to find a balance between encouraging "forces in the satellites moving toward US objectives" and provoking "counterforces including the Soviet Union to intervene and set back those 'liberalizing' influences at work."⁷¹ (U)

With regard to Hungary, Davis listed several goals:

1. Our immediate objective is to discourage and, if possible, prevent further Soviet armed intervention in Hungary as well as harsh measures of retaliation or repression. For this purpose the U.S. should mobilize pressures on the USSR against such measures through the UN action and by other means while reassuring the USSR we do not look upon Hungary or the other Satellites as potential military allies and recognize legitimate Soviet security interests in its relations with these areas.
2. In line with this approach consider* making in the UN or elsewhere a proposal of Hungarian neutrality on the Austrian model.
3. If the Nagy Government succeeds in establishing peace and its authority in the country, we should use whatever capabilities we may possess to influence the new Hungarian leaders to adhere to and fulfill the commitments they have made to the Hungarian people which will advance U.S. objectives, including the promise to seek Soviet agreement for the total withdrawal of Soviet forces from Hungary.

A decision on long-term U.S. economic assistance was to be kept in abeyance. While doubting that the Soviet Union would withdraw its forces from Hungary until assured of a government that would maintain friendly ties with Moscow, Davis believed that the

* A partially legible revision, apparently in Robert Bowie's hand, reads: "whether it is valuable [?] to make . . ."

Polish and Hungarian events so far "may well lead the Kremlin to reappraise the value of its present position in the Satellites and the costs of seeking to maintain it on the present basis." He therefore recommended that the NSC Planning Board "urgently undertake a study of policies and actions which might encourage or bring about such a withdrawal."⁷²

(U)

Stassen was convinced his recommendations had little effect. The most they accomplished, he recalled, was to encourage Dulles to insert in the Dallas speech the reassuring words to the Soviet leaders. He had really wanted a direct approach to the Soviets, saying in effect, "Let us confer immediately on the Hungarian situation. Let us work out some solution." Dulles had said he could not do this because the revolution "was moving in a way that was favorable to United States policy."⁷³ (U)

In fact, Dulles did decide to make an approach, but through Ambassador Charles Bohlen in Moscow rather than the Soviet UN mission. He may have thought doing so in the Soviet capital minimized the chance of a leak. Although there is no indication that his name ever came up, a less risky New York channel might have been Anatolii Dobrynin, who as a UN Deputy Secretary General was on Hammarskjöld's staff and not part of the Soviet mission. Dobrynin lived in an apartment separate from the Soviet compound and had his own direct means of communication with the Foreign Ministry.⁷⁴ (U)

On 29 October Dulles sent Bohlen a message, having cleared it with Eisenhower, which quoted the passage about Eastern Europe in the Dallas speech. He asked that the passage be brought to the attention of the Soviet leaders, including Zhukov. Bohlen could also mention a Western proposal for a treaty of assurance in connection with German reunification. Dulles stressed that the démarche should be kept from being publicly

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attributed to the United States. It is ironic that at the time Dulles was instructing Bohlen to approach the Soviet leaders, the Legation in Budapest, presuming that a debate was taking place within the Presidium between proponents of an iron-fisted approach and those advocating a moderate course, warned State against any "weak-kneed" Western reaction that would tip the scale in favor of the harder line.⁷⁵ (U)

In the meantime, Davis's paper formed the basis for the Planning Board's drafting of a new policy paper to deal with events in Poland and Hungary. During its deliberations the Board Assistants discussed, but rejected, proposals, to take steps quickly to detach Albania and Czechoslovakia from the Soviet bloc, give covert assistance to the Hungarian rebels, and redeploy U.S. forces as a warning to the Soviet Union.⁷⁶ It is not clear who made these proposals. (S)

The NSC Special Staff also discussed the possibility of covertly supplying arms to the rebels but noted that matters like this traditionally fell outside the Planning Board's purview. It seems that at least some at the CIA favored a more direct involvement than diplomatic action. Indeed, Allen Dulles had cabled Wisner on 27 October that "these are dramatic days and we must weigh carefully all our actions. However, I'm not one of those who believes we should be hindered by Undue Caution."⁷⁷ (S)

The possibility of supplying weapons to the insurgents became a live issue during the last days of October. [REDACTED] recalled that insurgents came to the Legation several times asking for weapons, especially anti-tank guns "We don't need American soldiers," they declared. "Just give us weapons, send us weapons!" He knew of stockpiled weapons of Soviet manufacture in West Germany that had been captured during the Korean War: "if we wanted to keep it quiet we could have brought in some of

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those." [REDACTED] was also aware of "a corps of Hungarian volunteers in West Germany," apparently a reference to a fraternal group of former Hungarian officers, who were armed and "only waiting for the authorization to set off for Hungary—an authorization that was never given."⁷⁸ No evidence has been found that this possibility was considered. (U)

While the Legation had not received a formal request for arms or any kind of military assistance, Military Attaché Todd thought he should request guidance from Washington in case the government so inquired. Delayed in transmission, his message of 31 October did not reach the Pentagon until 2 November. The next day officials in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs (ISA) discussed it with Beam, who believed "strongly that any reply could be misinterpreted." Therefore, they sent none.⁷⁹ So the question of sending arms to Hungary apparently never got very far in Defense. (U)

The Planning Board's draft policy paper, circulated on 31 October for consideration by the NSC the following day, repeated much of Davis's language about the objectives in Eastern Europe. In one important respect, it went further. It evidenced a cautious note of optimism in recommending what kind of help the United States should provide if a government came to power "at least as independent as that in Poland." In addition to (1) furnishing disaster relief; (2) increasing economic, scientific, and cultural exchanges; (3) being open to requests for moderate amounts of economic and technical assistance; and (4) adopting measures to reorient Hungary's trade toward the West, it proposed that the U.S. Government make the new leaders aware of its "support of their aims; and, to the extent that their success depends on such assistance, be prepared to assist them [REDACTED] accomplish their purpose of forming and preserving

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such a government."⁸⁰ Whether the assistance would include direct financial subsidies is not clear. (U)

The paper saw two courses open to the United States. The first was to continue the present policy, i.e. pressure through public statements and action at the UN "to inhibit the Soviet Union from further armed intervention" and provision of food and medical assistance for Hungary. The second was a more aggressive course. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] to "open recognition of their belligerent status" or "overt military support and recognition of their government if one be formed and succeeds in holding a portion of the country." But Stassen had added a third course to the draft paper—to try "to facilitate the complete withdrawal of Soviet armed forces from Hungary and the development of a Hungarian government broadly based on Hungarian public support with an independent status not allied to either the West or the East in a manner similar to the establishment of Austria." He also wanted the NSC to consider whether the United States should indicate a willingness "to consult with NATO on the probable withdrawal of some U.S. forces from Western Europe" if the Soviet Union pulled its forces out of Hungary.⁸¹ (U)

The Joint Chiefs strongly opposed Stassen's recommendations. They felt his proposed third course of action added little to the paper and feared that any offer of a partial withdrawal of troops might lead to a Soviet effort to obtain withdrawal of all U.S. forces from Europe. In their view, it might not be necessary to offer Moscow anything. If developments continued favorably, there was a possibility "that local actions will result in the withdrawal of Soviet military forces from that country without involvement of the United States." The JCS even opposed the Planning Board's inclusion of a recommended

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action that Dulles, with the President's approval, had already taken—publicly and privately assuring the Soviet Union that “we do not look upon Hungary or the other Satellites as potential military allies.” They believed that such assurances would undermine whatever “influence the United States may have on the government which is established in Hungary, and could in the future operate to our military disadvantage.”⁸²

(U)

The Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) was prepared to back the JCS. A briefing paper ISA prepared for Secretary Wilson's use the day before the NSC meeting recommended that he concur in the draft paper, which it considered “generally acceptable,” but that he oppose Stassen's recommendations and support the JCS views if Admiral Radford made a convincing presentation. ISA observed that the policy approved in July (NSC 5608/1) was “seriously inadequate in that, in its emphasis on the evolutionary approach toward the Satellite problem, it fails to give sufficient policy guidance as to what the U.S. should do in the event revolutionary action occurs.”⁸³ (S)

An NSC staff member had different reasons than those of the JCS and OSD for criticizing the paper. He thought it presented “little or nothing substantial and immediate which is not already done or contemplated.” Moreover, it implied that the United States should do nothing more for the time being. If this were true, he wondered, would it not “be clearer to say so.”⁸⁴ (S)

In the meantime the U.S. intelligence community, asked to rate the likelihood of precipitate Soviet action, had furnished an assessment on 30 October as part of a general estimate of the East European situation. In typically hedged language, the estimate concluded:

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It seems unlikely that US action short of overt military intervention or obvious preparation for such intervention would lead the USSR deliberately to take steps which it believed would materially increase the risk of general war. The Soviet leaders probably recognize that the US nuclear-air capability remains superior to that of the USSR, and have probably concluded that at present the USSR, even if it launched a surprise attack, would receive unacceptable damage in a nuclear exchange with the US.

The estimate sounded a note of caution: "Soviet suspicions of US policy and present circumstances which involve Soviet troop movements and alerts probably increase the likelihood of a series of actions and counteractions leading inadvertently to war," a series of events the estimate believed would most likely originate over East Germany, not Hungary.⁸⁵ (U)

NATO: Talk and Sympathy

If the NSC was responding in a deliberate manner, NATO by comparison moved ponderously. It produced papers, held meetings, and generally passed the ball to the United Nations. One scholar has quipped that when it came to the Hungarian revolution, NATO stood for "No Action, Talk Only." There is no evidence that it considered military intervention in Hungary. General Lauris Norstad, Gruenther's deputy and soon to succeed him as Supreme Allied Commander, Europe (SACEUR), recalled only that it had "some intelligence warning on the Hungarian crisis." He remembered discussions being held about 'what the hell can we do if we decide to do something. . . . But there was nothing useful or constructive that could be done.'⁸⁶ (U)

Since the spring of 1956 NATO had been following with interest the political and cultural thaw taking place in Eastern Europe, but a paper its International Staff circulated in late September warned against over-optimism regarding the liberalizing trends in the satellites and the ability of outside powers to influence them. It recommended that the

West continue using its cultural and informational contacts to assure the satellite peoples "of its moral support in their efforts to free themselves." But since "we are not prepared to use force to liberate them, we should not encourage futile rebellions on their part."⁸⁷

(U)

To allow delegations a full month to review and comment on the paper, Secretary General Hastings Ismay scheduled it for North Atlantic Council (NAC) consideration on 24 October, at which time the discussion centered on Poland and the region in general without reference to the tumultuous overnight events that had taken place in Hungary. The meeting resulted in a request for the International Staff to prepare three papers: (1) a summary of policies toward Eastern Europe being followed by NATO countries, (2) an up-to-date background paper; and (3) a paper directed towards a serious discussion of the possibilities for action, if any, to be taken by NATO governments "to promote the development of the thaw." The first paper was to be circulated within the next week or two; the latter two prior to the December ministerial meeting.⁸⁸(U)

Because of the rapidly worsening Hungarian situation, Ismay called a special Council meeting for 27 October. Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs Alberico Casardi, concerned that reporters would press representatives to comment on Hungary, suggested that they keep the Kremlin guessing about NATO's intentions. He thought representatives should avoid stating or even implying "that under no circumstances would we consider military intervention in any way in the situation in Eastern Europe," but they should also avoid suggesting that intervention was under consideration. "If we say we will *not* intervene, then the Stalinists can argue that they have carte blanche to take any repressive measures they want. If we say that we might

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intervene, then Russian national prestige becomes more involved and a disengagement more difficult."⁸⁹ Noting that the revolution showed no sign of ending, he concluded:

The question which now arises is whether any regime with Communist participation can stabilize the situation except as a form of Soviet military government. The Polish solution is thus overrun by events. Either the Russians must bow to the will of the people and withdraw, or they must intervene in a massive way. The human cost of the latter course would be terrible and we can only explore every avenue which might offer a hope of persuading them that withdrawal is preferable.⁹⁰ (C)

Casardi suggested that NATO mobilize world public opinion, seek to involve leaders of neutral countries, offer medical assistance to Hungary, support the UN Security Council's consideration of the question, and appeal to the Soviet Union to withdraw its forces, perhaps through Belgian Foreign Minister Paul-Henri Spaak then visiting Moscow. Casardi may have been echoing Washington's position by suggesting that the Council offer Moscow "some form of assurance that the NATO powers will not encourage or even countenance the establishment by any Hungarian government of military ties with the West" and "a guarantee on the Austrian model of Hungary's neutrality, perhaps of her demilitarization."⁹¹ After some discussion, the representatives considered his suggested courses of action "premature" but thought that they "merited consideration at a later date."⁹² They agreed that NATO as a body should not take any action regarding Hungary and that the question should be dealt with in the UN, where "care should be taken to avoid action or declarations which would give the Russians a pretext for even more violent intervention."⁹³ (U)

The Council discussed Hungary again on 30 and 31 October without settling on a course of action. At the latter meeting the discussion focused only on how far in advance of the December ministerial meeting Casardi should submit a paper recommending

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actions NATO might take with regard to the satellites. The submission date was set for 1 December.⁹⁴(U)

U.S., British, and French representatives took the lead in quickly ruling out any military action to aid the rebels. The restraint Casardi had desired was evidenced in the absence of official comment to the press. His recommendation that the organization keep its intentions uncertain was apparently heeded. Not until the middle of December did NATO issue a public statement about the Hungarian situation.⁹⁵ (U)

Turning Points

During the last days of October and the first day of November a concurrence of domestic and external events produced a fundamental watershed in the course of the revolution. For policymakers in Washington and elsewhere, the speed with which one development overtook another made it difficult to discern clearly what was happening. (U)

In New York, the Security Council was indeed moving toward action regarding Hungary, but another British about-face delayed implementation. Lodge had worked out with Dulles and other State officials a rather aggressive plan. The U.S. delegation would have a resolution introduced, but not voted on at a meeting on 1 November, calling for withdrawal of all Soviet armed forces, political police, and paramilitary units, as well as verification of the withdrawal by neutral UN observers. But the British balked. Their Permanent Representative in New York, Pierson Dixon, likened the proposal to a "Sword of Damocles" that might halt what he considered favorable momentum underway in the Security Council. The next meeting should instead be devoted to speeches condemning

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the Soviet intervention, questioning the new Hungarian representative* whether the Nagy government was in fact negotiating the withdrawal of Soviet forces, and introducing a procedural resolution to suspend deliberation for 48 hours to allow time for the negotiations to be concluded. Then, two days later, a substantive resolution could be submitted.⁹⁶ (U)

State approved the British plan, "subject to developments," and particularly whether by the time the Security Council met on 1 November the Hungarian-Soviet negotiations had begun. Waiting another two days before introducing a substantive resolution would allow the United States or other countries to deal with the Soviets "directly, if desirable." That night State sent the U.S. delegation a slightly revised draft substantive resolution calling for the Soviet Union to cease its intervention and still proposing the creation of a UN fact-finding committee.⁹⁷ (U)

In Budapest, under pressure from student groups, workers' councils, and revolutionary committees established in provincial cities and towns, Nagy steadily discarded the communist system and instituted a series of reforms, including a multi-party political system. On 29 October Soviet forces began to withdraw from Budapest, although they stationed themselves outside the city and other forces remained in the countryside. Inside Hungary the impression prevailed that the revolution had triumphed. The Legation declared on 31 October that "it became virtually certain in Budapest this morning that the Hungarian revolution" was now a "fact of history," something which it had doubted could be achieved without the "strongest Western support."⁹⁸ (U)

* The Nagy government had announced the replacement of the previous government's appointee, who had made such a poor showing at the 28 October Security Council meeting, by newly appointed Foreign Minister, Imre Horvath, said to be en route to New York.

As favorable as the trend appeared within the country, outside developments proved decisive. On 29 October, according to a plan worked out with Britain and France, Israeli forces invaded Egypt with the aim of seizing control of the Suez Canal. The next day the two Western powers issued an ultimatum that unless Israel and Egypt agreed to a cease-fire, they would move forces into the area as well. (U)

The Eisenhower administration had to make two critical decisions: whether to concentrate attention on the Middle East at the expense of Hungary and whether to break with its close allies because of their action against Egypt. State's Policy Planning Staff concluded that the United States "should condemn the Israeli aggression and disassociate itself with the British and French action," both actions fully supported by Eisenhower and Secretary Dulles. With regard to Hungary, the group decided that if the Soviet Union undertook massive repression, any "effective action" by the United States "would probably involve hostilities with the Soviets." But, displaying the same kind of optimism as the JCS and others had, it believed that "the long-term prospect seemed to be for gradually growing Hungarian independence, even in the event of US inaction, although the Soviets might keep sufficient troops in the country to slow down the trend and to ensure that Hungary remained an ally of the USSR."⁹⁹ (U)

In the Security Council the United States and the Soviet Union jointly sponsored a resolution condemning the invasion of Egypt, which Britain and France vetoed. The Suez crisis was then transferred to the General Assembly, with an emergency session called for the evening of 1 November. As a result the Security Council postponed its meeting on Hungary. The attention of the West, in part because the Hungarian situation now seemed nearing resolution, shifted to the Middle East. (U)

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In Moscow events also took a sharp turn. In a lengthy conversation the afternoon of 29 October, Zhukov told Bohlen that the Soviet Union had not sent more troops into Hungary, that its forces had concentrated on Budapest and had bypassed towns held by rebel forces, and that they had not fired any shots during the last two days. Bohlen considered Zhukov's comments a mixture of "untruths, half-truths and possibly some elements of real fact." He concluded that Moscow had decided to continue backing the Nagy government, possibly "leaving provinces and other towns for subsequent mopping" up if the resistance could first be broken in Budapest. In this way a total military occupation could be avoided. Bohlen therefore interpreted Nagy's statement about a Soviet troop withdrawal from Budapest as merely a trick, "with Soviet connivance, to cause [the] insurgents to cease fire."¹⁰⁰ (U)

Contrary to Bohlen's expectation, the presidium of the Central Committee of the Communist Party the very next day, 30 October, decided to withdraw Soviet forces from Hungary. It also issued a declaration, which represented the views of the moderate presidium members, on the principles governing Soviet relations with other socialist countries. A key sentence indicated that "the Soviet Government is prepared to enter into the appropriate negotiations with the government of the Hungarian People's Republic and other members of the Warsaw Treaty on the question of the presence of Soviet troops on the territory of Hungary."¹⁰¹ (U)

Because of Zhukov's remarks, Bohlen doubted whether calling the Soviet leaders' attention to Dulles's speech in Dallas, as he had been instructed, would have much effect on Soviet policy. Moreover, he was reluctant to bring up the treaty of assurance, which the Western powers had raised at the Geneva conference in July 1955, because it was so

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tied in with the question of German reunification and had provoked Molotov's strong opposition. Since the Soviets had been advocating a nonaggression agreement between the Warsaw Pact and NATO, Bohlen feared they might interpret his talking about a treaty of assurance as a hint that the United States might consider a broader agreement.¹⁰² (U)

At an evening diplomatic reception on 30 October, Bohlen made the approach. He took Molotov and Zhukov aside, but not Khrushchev or Bulganin for fear of arousing speculation by journalists present. The Ambassador translated from memory Dulles's remarks regarding Eastern Europe. Molotov's only comment was that he would look up the speech. Zhukov said he found it difficult to reconcile it with the President's encouragement of the rebels, which he thought constituted interference in Hungary's internal affairs. Bohlen did not mention the treaty of assurance regarding Germany. Despite the cool response by the two Soviet officials, some scholars have claimed that by making the demarche the United States gave the Kremlin a green light to do what it wished in Hungary.¹⁰³ (U)

The next morning the presidium again met and unanimously—apparently without debate—reversed its position of the previous day. According to fragmentary notes, Khrushchev urged that they not withdraw troops but instead “take the initiative in restoring order.” Withdrawal would “give a great boost to the Americans, English, and French,” who would “perceive it as weakness on our part and will go onto the offensive. . . . To Egypt they will then add Hungary.” Moreover, “our party will not accept it if we do this.” Neither he nor anyone else mentioned events inside Hungary, statements by Western leaders, Bohlen's demarche, or the Security Council consideration of the issue. The motive seemed to be the loss of prestige a withdrawal would entail. After learning

that the Soviet military would need only three days to prepare a major attack, Khrushchev, Molotov, and Malenkov embarked on a whirlwind tour to confer secretly over the next few days with the leaders of the satellite governments and Yugoslavia and inform them of the presidium's decision. Only Gomulka objected. Before Khrushchev left Moscow, Anastas Mikoyan, who had been in Budapest when the decision was reached and who favored a negotiated settlement, unsuccessfully pleaded with him to hold another meeting to reconsider and gave him the impression that he would commit suicide if Khrushchev refused.¹⁰⁴ (U)

What the outside world saw happening in Moscow on 31 October was the publication of the previous day's hopeful declaration on relations with the satellites, not the presidium's decision that morning to crack down on the revolution. In Washington attendees at Secretary Dulles's staff meeting drew his attention to the declaration, which they felt represented "a shift in Soviet policy." They discussed the Security Council meeting planned the following day (it had not yet been postponed) at which the British intended to request a 48-hour delay in considering Hungary. Dulles emphasized "that he did not want us to become distracted by Middle Eastern events from the critical importance of following and taking appropriate actions on the Hungarian situation."¹⁰⁵ (U)

Did the Soviet leaders genuinely fear Western military intervention, either a large-scale assault or the infiltration of smaller groups across Hungary's border with Austria? Probably not. Khrushchev repeated in his memoirs Moscow's propaganda line that the West was infiltrating troops into Hungary, but a young Soviet Foreign Ministry official later assigned the task of writing a pamphlet to prove Western instigation and support of

the revolution could find no evidence that this had happened. The Soviet Ambassador in Budapest, Yuri Andropov, later privately admitted that the charge was "nonsense."¹⁰⁶

(U)

Nor was there evidence of a military buildup in Western Europe. Although U.S. forces in Europe went on alert, no visible troop movements or threatening maneuvers took place. One of the few intelligence documents Moscow has released, a 28 October telegram from KGB Chief Ivan Serov who had been sent to Budapest after the outbreak of the revolution, suggested that the UN was contemplating a massive intervention to help the Hungarians. It reported statements by two U.S. Legation "employees" as they were "leaving the city with their things." The two men, "Olivart and West," told an agent "of our friends"--presumably the Hungarian secret police--that "if the uprising is not liquidated in the shortest possible time, the UN troops will move in at the proposal of the USA and a second Korea will take place." The men, whose names were Oliveiras and Vest, were not Legation employees but couriers responsible for carrying the diplomatic pouch between State and overseas posts. They could hardly be expected to reflect the Legation's views. Indeed, no mention has been found that it advocated or even discussed a possible armed UN intervention.¹⁰⁷ (U)

Nevertheless, the 160-mile border Hungary shared with Austria had become porous. In the spring and summer of 1956 the Hungarian Government's removal of barbed wire and mines had already increased the movement of people across it. According to one account, when the revolution broke out [REDACTED] the West German Gehlen organization gave money and weapons to Hungarian refugees in Austria so they could return and take part in the fighting. In addition, members of private armies

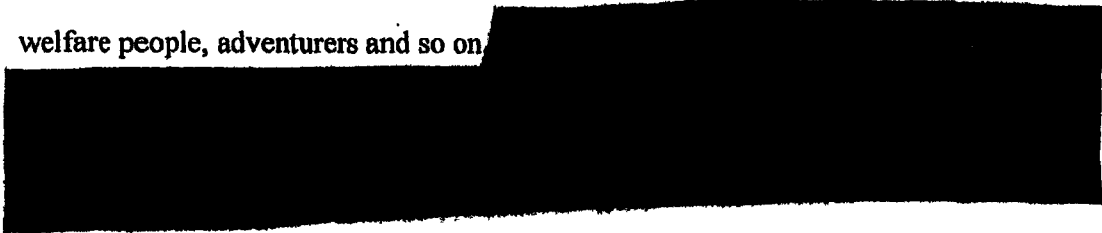
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composed of former Hungarians mobilized to come to the aid of the rebels. One of them, the fraternal Society of Hungarian Fighters, established a headquarters in Vienna and may have infiltrated small bands of armed men into western Hungary. A Russian émigré group based in Germany, the *Narodnyi Trudovoy Soyuz* (NTS or National Labor Council), also showed up in the border area with the main objective of encouraging defection of Soviet troops. By the end of October it established a group to liaise with the rebels, another to discuss with Austrian authorities the possibility of sending volunteer fighters into Hungary, a Red Cross unit ready to enter Hungary, and a propaganda team to prepare handbills for distribution. How much activity the NTS pursued inside Hungary is unclear. But Americans traveling from Vienna to Budapest on 30 October came across one of its leaflets in Hungarian and Russian; its message attempted to persuade Soviet officers and troops to join the insurgents.¹⁰⁸ (S)

Americans were also at the border. Ambassador Llewellyn Thompson instructed the staff of the Vienna Embassy to stay away for fear the Soviet Union might use any official U.S. presence there in its propaganda. According to a diplomat detailed to the Embassy, "there were all sorts of Americans wandering around Hungary--journalists, welfare people, adventurers and so on



Anxious to maintain the position of neutrality established by the Austrian State Treaty the previous year that resulted in the withdrawal of occupation forces, the Austrian Government, though sympathetic to the aims of the revolution, took great pains to minimize the border crossings. On 31 October it conducted the military attachés of the

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four former occupying powers on an extensive tour of the border area. The attaches indicated their satisfaction with the precautions being taken.¹¹⁰ Infiltrations from Austria into Hungary that did occur had to have been on a very small scale. (U)

On the other hand, the attack by British and French forces on Suez created a major problem. Because of that crisis suddenly impinging on Hungary, the President's advisers thought he needed to report to the American public immediately on both crises. State sent a draft statement to the White House the afternoon of 31 October a few hours before the President was to deliver it over national radio and television. Speechwriter Emmet Hughes thought the draft terrible. He and Eisenhower made several changes, including dampening State's optimistic language about developments in Eastern Europe. For example, their revised version called popular pressures "more and more insistent" instead of "irresistible," as State's draft had characterized them. When Dulles came to the White House to review the new version, he insisted on retaining some of the original phrasing. The differences were minor, but they did reflect the generally positive assessment of developments by Dulles and others at State. The Secretary's attitude also showed in his telephone comments that day to Vice President Richard Nixon: "Two things are important from the standpoint of history. It is the beginning of the collapse of the Soviet Empire. The second is the idea is out that we can be dragged along at the heels of British and French policies that are obsolete."¹¹¹ (U)

The President's statement that evening, even with the rewriting, exuded optimism about Eastern Europe. He spoke of the Polish people, "with their proud and deathless devotion to freedom," securing "a peaceful transition to a new government." Hungary was not far behind. "Today, it appears, a new Hungary is rising from this struggle, a

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Hungary which we hope from our hearts will know full and free nationhood." The President hailed the Soviet Union's declaration on relations with the East European nations, including its stated willingness to consider withdrawing troops. If the announced intentions were carried out, "the world will witness the greatest forward stride toward justice, trust and understanding among nations in our generation." Eisenhower reiterated his willingness to provide economic aid to Poland and Hungary, again emphasizing that "we do not demand of these governments their adoption of any particular form of society as a condition upon our economic assistance." And he pointed out that the U.S. Government had "sought clearly to remove any false fears" the Soviet Union might have "that we would look upon new governments in these Eastern European countries as potential military allies."¹¹² (U)

One newspaper saw the President's remarks as embodying a main objective of the administration's foreign policy—the avoidance of war. He and Dulles were "one-step-at-a-time men." The idea behind their policy was that people who had taken the first step to throw off a foreign tyranny would understand how to rid themselves of a domestic tyranny." At this point war would deny them the time needed "to take the second step."¹¹³ (U)

As it turned out, the NSC did not discuss the new draft paper at its 1 November morning meeting. Shortly before it started, Secretary Dulles telephoned the President and mentioned the possibility of taking sanctions against the Israelis and what should be done at the General Assembly meeting that evening. He thought "we are going to have to make important decisions here today and don't know how much time we should spend at NSC." Policy toward Poland and Hungary, slated to be the NSC's main topic, he now felt

was "academic as the situation has pretty much taken care of itself." The President accepted his suggestion that they focus entirely on the Middle East and so informed Council members at the start of the meeting.¹¹⁴ (U)

The only mention of Hungary came at the beginning of the meeting in Allen Dulles's customary briefing on world developments. He called developments there "a miracle" that "belied all our past views that a popular revolt in the face of modern weapons was an utter impossibility." The Soviet declaration on relations with the satellites was "one of the most important statements to come out of the USSR in the last decade." The main problem, as he saw it, was the "lack of a strong guiding authority to bring the rebels together. Nagy was failing to unite the rebels, and they were demanding that he quit." Unlike the previous week's meeting, the briefing sparked no comments. It is interesting to speculate what position Eisenhower and Dulles would have taken on the new draft NSC paper in view of the strong JCS objections to certain of the recommendations. But discussion of the paper was deferred. (U)

Instead of Eastern Europe, the group concentrated on how to handle the Middle East crisis at the UN. Secretary Dulles made an impassioned statement that unless the United States took the lead in condemning the use of force there, the Soviet Union would do so, and the newly independent countries in Asia and Africa would turn to Moscow. The timing of the Anglo-French action particularly rankled him:

It is nothing less than tragic that at this very time, when we are at the point of winning an immense and long-hoped-for victory over Soviet colonialism in Eastern Europe, we should be forced to choose between following in the footsteps of Anglo-French colonialism in Asia and Africa, or splitting our course away from their course. Yet the decision must be made in a matter of hours—before five o'clock this afternoon.

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Dulles spent the rest of the morning and early afternoon on Middle East matters before departing Washington by air to take part in the General Assembly's emergency session.¹¹⁵ (U)

Aboard the aircraft, Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs Burke Elbrick discussed with him a memo recommending that the Security Council as soon as possible again take up the Hungarian question. "It would be a pity," said the memo, "to lose the momentum we have established because of diversion of attention to the Middle East." Elbrick felt that the emergency session of the General Assembly could not address the Hungarian question; therefore he recommended continuing to deal with it in the Security Council before thinking about putting it on the General Assembly's regular agenda.¹¹⁶ (U)

During the day the administration, soon after deciding to concentrate on the Middle East on the assumption that the Hungarian situation was virtually resolved, received contrary news from Budapest. State learned of a radio broadcast, confirmed by the Legation, that Nagy had called in the Soviet Ambassador protesting the arrival of new troops, immediately terminating Hungary's membership in the Warsaw Pact, and proclaiming the country's neutrality. The broadcast indicated that Nagy was informing Secretary General Hammarskjöld of these decisions and requesting that the Hungarian matter be discussed at the next General Assembly session.¹¹⁷ (U)

The White House did not receive news of Nagy's message to the UN until shortly after 3 o'clock, along with erroneous wire service reports out of Vienna [REDACTED] that new Soviet forces had begun reoccupying Budapest.¹¹⁸ The news caused Hughes, in the midst of drafting the President's speech for that evening, to revise the part

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on Hungary. On seeing the draft, Eisenhower said he favored using cautious language. "I'm always scared of superlatives," he declared. Hughes mentioned that Dulles had overruled him the day before regarding the tone of the President's statement. Eisenhower replied that he "always thought Foster a little too optimistic about developments there." He looked at things rationally and believed the Soviets would adapt to changed circumstances in a rational way. Eisenhower said, "I've had a lot more experience than he has with these fellows—it's the same business as with Hitler—you *can't* count on their doing the rational thing, they are NOT rational."¹¹⁹ (U)

Whereas the mood in Washington had been so upbeat earlier in the day, the President that evening spoke guardedly about Soviet intentions in his final campaign address in Philadelphia:

We are—only today—troubled by news of new Soviet efforts to suppress the people of Hungary by force. If this be true, this is a black day of sorrow. But the Soviet Union has declared its readiness to reshape oppressive policies of a decade—and to contemplate withdrawal of its armed forces from Poland and Hungary and Rumania. If this be true—and if this be done—there could be in the making a bright new day of justice and trust among all nations.

He reiterated that the United States had no selfish motive in Eastern Europe, but reminded listeners that he had "always made clear that we would never renounce our hope and concern for these lands and peoples." While the U.S. Government had publicly denounced the Soviet use of force in Eastern Europe, "we ourselves have abstained from use of force—knowing it to be contrary to both the interests of these peoples, and to the spirit and methods of the United Nations." And referring to the Middle East, the President said he was proud, "that the United States had publicly opposed the use of force there as well as in Eastern Europe."¹²⁰ (U)

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At the General Assembly's emergency session on the Middle East that evening, Secretary Dulles, doubting "that any representative ever spoke from this rostrum with as heavy a heart," said that "the United States finds itself unable to agree with three nations with which it has ties of deep friendship, of admiration and of respect, and two of which constitute our oldest and most trusted and reliable allies." He introduced a resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire, the withdrawal of all military forces, and requesting the Secretary General to observe and report on the compliance with the resolution.¹²¹

Change of Tactics at the UN

As aggressively as the United States to this point had pushed for Security Council consideration of Hungary, it suddenly put on the brakes, in effect switching positions with the British and the French. Washington did not want to bring the matter to a vote, incur a Soviet veto, and have it transferred to the General Assembly where it would complicate that body's handling of the Middle East crisis. On the other hand, the British and the French were anxious to do precisely that. (U)

Back in Washington the afternoon of 2 November after an all-night session in New York, Dulles telephoned Lodge to say that it was "a mockery" for the British and the French "to come in with bombs falling over Egypt" and then denounce the Soviet Union "for perhaps doing something that is not quite as bad." He instructed Lodge to oppose the submission in the Security Council of any resolution on Hungary, but keep the matter on the agenda and suggest they try to have the Nagy government's new representative reach New York as soon as possible. Dulles said there wasn't any "hard information" on what was happening inside Hungary, but there was "no doubt" concerning Egypt. He added that "we may have to try to press for further action in the

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way of setting up a comm. to deal with various aspects of it," a cryptic remark that might have referred to the Middle East or to the establishment of a commission or committee to deal with Hungary.¹²² (U)

Two hours before the Security Council met on 2 November, the three Western representatives went over their tactics. Dixon now found Lodge's ideas much different from his. Dixon wanted to submit a substantive resolution; Lodge said he had no authority to do so. Events were too confused, Lodge maintained, and State was unsure how to handle Hungary's declaration of neutrality. It had no intention, if the Soviet Union exercised its veto, of moving on to the General Assembly. "Lodge claimed, without much conviction," Dixon reported to London, "that the Russians would be under greater pressure if the debate continued in the Security Council." According to the French representative's report of the conversation, Lodge wanted to postpone consideration of Hungary until the following Monday, 5 November.¹²³ (U)

As their discussion grew heated, Lodge suggested that British eagerness to transfer the issue to the General Assembly was apparently designed to distract that body's attention from the Middle East. Dixon explained that the British had put forward their two-phase plan involving a delay of 48 hours because the Nagy government's position was then unclear, and "we did not wish to push them" into Moscow's arms. The declaration of neutrality had changed all that. He told Lodge that "the apparent reluctance of the Americans to harass the Russians on Hungary contrasted oddly with the alacrity with which they were pursuing their two closest allies in the Assembly on the Middle East. In short, it seemed like deliberate procrastination to leave the decks free for

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Assembly action against us." The French representative supported Dixon and said he had instructions to submit a resolution quickly, which he would do alone if necessary.¹²⁴ (U)

Urgent phone calls to Washington produced no change in the U.S. position, after which Dixon offered Lodge a deal. Since the British wanted to maintain a tripartite front regarding Hungary, he would not submit a substantive resolution if they could have a gentlemen's agreement to limit themselves that evening to making speeches, then adjourn until the following day when together they would introduce a substantive resolution. Lodge immediately agreed "with evident relief."¹²⁵ (U)

The Security Council meeting did not go as planned. Right away the members became embroiled in debate over who could represent Hungary at the meeting, and the Council President made clear he did not expect to finish discussion at the meeting. According to Dixon, Lodge "led off with a very feeble speech against the Russians in which he dwelt on the obscurity of the recent events and the need for time to clarify them." Other representatives followed with strong condemnations of the Soviet Union and calls for prompt Council action. Dixon and the French representative kept their part of the bargain by not introducing a substantive resolution.¹²⁶ (U)

The British became suspicious that the U.S. delegation had let it be known it would not object to postponing the next meeting until 5 November. "As this seemed to me tantamount to breaking our gentlemen's agreement," Dixon told the Foreign Office, "I challenged Lodge privately at the table and he gave instructions to his team to organize adjournment until tomorrow afternoon, while agreeing that we should have a tripartite meeting late in the morning to work out a draft resolution." Afterwards Lodge assured Dixon he would join the British and French in tabling a resolution the next day. Dixon

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felt, however, that the Americans might insist on including a proposal for an investigating committee and might still resist pushing the resolution to a vote.¹²⁷ (U)

In fact, Lodge asked the State Department to authorize him to introduce both a procedural and a substantive resolution unilaterally at the next meeting. If State still wanted to delay a vote on the substantive resolution to avoid a Soviet veto, he recommended leaving blank the names of the countries to serve on the proposed investigating committee. In this way the United States could keep the resolution pending until ready for a vote, although it risked having the British or French secure priority for their own resolutions.¹²⁸ (U)

Two UN meetings were scheduled for 3 November. The Security Council planned to take up the Hungarian question at 3 p.m., the General Assembly the Middle East crisis at 8 p.m. In Washington that morning, State's Legal Adviser Herman Phleger reported that Secretary Dulles, who had been taken to a hospital for stomach surgery during the early morning hours and with whom he had evidently been in contact, did not want to join the British and French in introducing a Security Council resolution on Hungary. Eisenhower "said that such a thought was almost absurd."¹²⁹ (U)

Lodge therefore told Dixon that he had been instructed, contrary to what he had said the night before, to introduce a resolution immediately and without further consultation with the British and French. This would avoid the appearance of being too closely identified with them. He did not intend to bring the resolution to a vote and felt that the reported troop withdrawals might mean the Soviet Union would not veto the resolution if it did come to a vote. Dixon did not consider it worthwhile to start a row "over this piece of American duplicity partly because I felt we would need all Mr.

Lodge's genuine sympathy for Britain in our struggle at tonight's Assembly, and partly because the distrustfulness is only a symptom of a much wider difference." Robert Murphy told the French Ambassador that the United States wanted to avoid taking "precipitate action in the Security Council" that might "look foolish a few hours later," and it did not wish to do anything the Soviets might view "as a provocation for strong action."¹³⁰ (U)

Initially, the French Foreign Ministry instructed its delegation to toughen up the wording of the U.S. draft so as to provoke a Soviet veto. But Foreign Secretary Lloyd was opposed to doing so, since he considered it in Britain's and France's interest to preserve what remained of the Western tripartite position in the Security Council. In any event, Lloyd pointed out, it was "too late to try to use Hungary to strengthen our hand or procure delays in the Assembly over Egypt." Accepting the British reasoning, the French eventually agreed not to strengthen the U.S. resolution.¹³¹ (U)

When the Security Council resumed deliberations at 3 o'clock that afternoon, (9:00 p.m. in Budapest), Lodge introduced the resolution and led off debate with a recapitulation of recent reports of further Soviet intervention, including a quote from Nagy's message circulated at the Council meeting the previous night about the large-scale Soviet buildup. He asked the Hungarian representative and Sobolev if they could confirm reports of fresh troops entering the country and whether negotiations for the withdrawal of Soviet forces had begun. The Hungarian, who obviously had worked out his statement with the Soviet and Yugoslav delegations, said that he could report "with satisfaction . . . the following promising information received from Budapest today: The leaders of the Hungarian and Soviet armies met today at noon, and both parties expressed

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their views of the technical questions involved in withdrawing the Soviet troops. They agreed that they would study each other's proposals and that they would meet again at 10 o'clock tonight, Budapest time. According to the Soviet proposal, no more troops will cross the border until an agreement is reached." The Yugoslav representative immediately requested adjournment to avoid "doing anything that might impede the negotiations." Along with the Soviet, Hungarian, Yugoslav, and two other representatives, Lodge voted against a resolution to meet the following day, which would have carried had it not been for his vote. It was this vote--the culmination, as it turned out, of Washington's efforts to prolong Security Council consideration of the Hungarian issue--that later earned Lodge much criticism. The Council then accepted a motion to adjourn until Monday morning, 5 November, to await the results of the negotiations in Budapest.¹³² Dixon considered the meeting completely unsatisfactory. "If the United States had been in the least anxious to obtain a vote on their resolution," he lamented, "we could easily have defeated the delaying tactics."¹³³ (U)

Clutching at Straws

The Nagy government's withdrawal from the Warsaw Pact, declaration of Hungary's neutrality, and appeal to the UN were calculated gambles. To soften the negative reaction in Moscow and to appear evenhanded, it appealed not just to the West to safeguard its neutrality, but to all four major powers. In their public utterances over the next few days government officials went out of their way to emphasize that Hungary did not want to join NATO, restore capitalism, or undo the achievements of socialism.¹³⁴ (U)

Why did Nagy ask that the General Assembly place the Hungarian question on its agenda? Did he believe that a Soviet veto in the Security Council would prevent effective

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action and that only the Assembly could act decisively? Or was he, as one scholar contended, not expecting the Assembly to take up the question right away in emergency session but to wait until the regular session opened on 12 November? He may have thus been seeking leverage on the Soviet Union to encourage it to halt the troop buildup, in which event he would withdraw the appeal to the UN.¹³⁵ (U)

To outsiders the situation in Hungary seemed confused and no longer as bright as just a few days before. Nagy's requests for help contrasted sharply with the efforts of his government, undergoing daily reorganization, to convey a business-as-usual demeanor in the face of the Soviet buildup. Under Secretary of State Hoover remarked at a staff meeting the morning of 2 November that the situation "was being lost." He requested "a review of what actually has gone on and particularly what we have done" and that "adequate publicity" be given to the situation. This led Beam to observe "that we still are not sure what we can do until we know more of the government with which we would deal."¹³⁶ (U)

Washington's confusion showed in its dispatch of Minister-Designate Wailes to Budapest. On 2 November Wailes arrived after a two-day layover in Vienna, where he had informed Ambassador Thompson of State's instructions not to present his credentials to the Nagy government. Thompson, who felt strongly that Wailes should present the credentials, telephoned State to try to have the instructions amended--but without success. The U.S. Embassy in Vienna may have inspired a journalist's claim that the insurgents had seized on Wailes's imminent arrival and presentation of credentials as a hopeful sign--"another indication that the United States does not intend to permit Moscow to again extinguish Hungary's newly regained freedom." The day after Wailes

arrived, State changed its mind and asked him to make the presentation as soon as possible, but the message arrived too late for him to do so before the Soviet attack.¹³⁷ (U)

The situation within Hungary was grim. The Legation reported that Soviet forces had returned in a rapid and systematic way. Budapest was almost completely encircled. Troops also saturated provincial areas and surrounded important towns, military bases, and air fields. The Legation thought that Moscow might issue an ultimatum, perhaps in the veiled form of a request for negotiations, to discuss Hungary's participation in the Warsaw Pact and the composition of the government. Although the government might yield in the face of hopeless odds, the general populace might not do so and a slaughter would ensue.¹³⁸ (U)

The government's appeal to the UN struck the Legation as a "desperate striving to find [a] way out." Before then, Hungarians had viewed that body's discussions in far-off New York as a means of applying diplomatic pressure on the Soviet Union. A British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) journalist recalled that people he encountered "were quite convinced that the United Nations would manage to put pressure on the Russians to stay out. . . . The Americans were trying to call for meetings, Security Council and so on and all this was being broadcast to the Hungarian people. So they had this faith that the West would not necessarily intervene directly, but would at least prevent the Russians from coming back in."¹³⁹ (U)

As the sense of desperation grew, Hungarians looked to the UN for more immediate assistance. On the morning of 3 November Budapest radio announced that the city's main airport had received a message from Prague reporting that "an aircraft carrying 16 UN delegates" would soon arrive. On hearing the news, a French journalist

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went to the airport only to learn that no plane had landed. He nevertheless clung to the hope that the group might come the following day, since "one knows now that the free world is alerted." An American reporter, with a group of foreign journalists ordered out of the city and then forced to turn back, recalled: "We were driving now into Budapest with the flags of 20 countries. And the Hungarians thought we were the arrival of the rescue battalion. We were cheered all the way." Talk of a UN delegation's imminent arrival caused a stir in the Parliament building, where government officials said if the Soviets refused permission for the aircraft to land, it would find another airport. In any event, it would ensure that Moscow honored its promise to withdraw. When the Legation informed Washington of the rumor, State quickly responded that the UN had not appointed nor even discussed sending a delegation. It noted that the Security Council planned to take up the Hungarian question later in the day, with Lodge tabling a resolution merely calling on the Soviet Union to withdraw its troops and not interfere in Hungary's internal affairs and also asking members to provide relief and medical assistance.¹⁴⁰

The rumor apparently grew out of comments by the Cuban UN delegate in the Security Council on 2 November when he mentioned the possibility of sending a UN commission to investigate the situation in Hungary. He said that "a draft resolution should be submitted as soon as possible," providing among other things "for the establishment of a Security Council commission to supervise the position and to report on compliance with measures adopted by the Council to ensure the national independence and political freedom of the Hungarian people." The next day RFE's reporting of the remarks was misleading. The broadcast indicated that he had said, "Let the U.N. send a

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committee to Hungary which should, on the spot, assure the conditions for political independence in Hungary." It failed to mention that no resolution had in fact been submitted, much less approved. RFE also asserted that the Hungarian question would "most likely" be transferred to the General Assembly, an action the United States in fact was opposing at the time. RFE was not the only source of the rumor. The French Minister in Budapest told Paris that "various Western radio stations" carried news about the UN committee of inquiry, whose arrival "everyone" was awaiting.¹⁴¹ (S)

Information on the deteriorating military situation came first-hand from a high government source, [REDACTED] who had requested a meeting that day with the American military attachés. [REDACTED] estimated that nearly 5,000 Soviet tanks and 10-12 divisions were in Hungary with more units arriving. He asked the Americans to bring the situation to the urgent attention of the UN delegation rumored en route to Budapest. [REDACTED] who heard it had been delayed in Pozsony (present-day Bratislava), offered personally to fly there. In reporting the conversation to Washington, Todd observed that if no commission were on the way, a trap was likely being set to eliminate [REDACTED] whom he called a "pillar of strength" in the Air Force and "strongly pro-American."¹⁴² (S)

Though Nagy was scheduled to give a press conference in the afternoon, Zoltán Tildy, a member of Nagy's cabinet, took his place, meeting with correspondents for about 1½ hours but absented himself briefly while someone else took over. When Tildy returned, he seemed in a depressed mood, was vague, and dodged questions. He described the Hungarian-Soviet negotiations that had started earlier in the day as essentially military and suggested that new committees might be formed to discuss

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broader subjects. The Legation reported that "believe it or not" a correspondent, whom it considered highly reliable, claimed that Soviet military representatives had agreed to the complete withdrawal of troops from Hungary. Resumption of the negotiations that evening would cover the details and timing of the withdrawal. Other rumors circulated. Early that evening the British Legation received word that Nagy was "appealing today to the Secretary General of the United Nations to visit Hungary." To reinforce the request, Nagy was reportedly "thinking about flying to New York as soon as possible from an airfield in Hungarian hands."¹⁴³ (U)

In Washington at this eleventh hour, two strikingly different ideas were under consideration, one—suggested by Bohlen—was to have Eisenhower appeal directly to Premier Nikolai Bulganin to withdraw Soviet forces from Hungary. Someone in State drafted the letter on 3 November, reiterating the assurances that the United States was not seeking military allies in Eastern Europe but saying nothing that had not been said before. It offered no specific concessions in return for Soviet troop withdrawal. And there is no evidence that Acting Secretary Hoover saw the draft or that it was forwarded to the White House.¹⁴⁴ (U)

The other idea involved military action. The diplomatic correspondent of the London *Observer* quoted "a high American government official" as saying that the U.S. Government feared the Soviet Union had probably "decided to drown the Hungarian revolution in blood." If the fears were borne out "and the Hungarians manage to hold out for three or four days," the report continued, "the pressure on America to help militarily might become irresistible." According to the report, the NSC had discussed recommendations to "use tactical atomic weapons on Russian lines of communication to

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help Hungary." The President was said to be unwilling to do this without Congressional approval, which could not happen until after the election. The unnamed official said that if the Hungarians were still fighting the day after, "we will be closer to a world war than we have been since August 1939."¹⁴⁵ (U)

Far-fetched as the story seems, it may have been accurate. The quoted official was probably the CIA's Robert Amory, the agency's representative on the NSC Planning Board. Years later Amory recalled that "as soon as it had become clear that the Russians, instead of withdrawing, were pouring reinforcements into Hungary," he recommended giving the Soviet Union an ultimatum to either "keep their hands off Hungary or we would not be responsible for whatever happened next." He wanted to interdict rail and road connections into Hungary by "a surgical nuclear strike limited to Lvov in Soviet-annexed Poland and selected passes in the mountains of Russian Ruthenia and western Rumania." Allen Dulles told him to discuss his recommendation with Bowie, but it apparently got nowhere. In Paris the Norwegian representative to NATO expressed concern about the *Observer* article, but U.S. officials told him not to "take seriously [a] speculative account of this kind." Looking back 30 years later, Amory conceded that the idea "must appear to have been lunacy." But at the time he felt that the United States enjoyed a relative nuclear strategic advantage that it would never have again.¹⁴⁶ (U)

Revolution Crushed, False Hopes Raised

Shortly after the negotiations in Budapest resumed late in the evening on 3 November, KGB officers entered the room and arrested the Hungarian representatives. Around 4 o'clock the next morning, a massive Soviet attack on Budapest began. Within a few days Hungarian resistance, not only in the capital but elsewhere, was effectively

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ended, with the Soviet Union installing a puppet government headed by János Kádár. Nagy and other members of his government who took refuge in the Yugoslav Embassy were later lured out, arrested, and eventually executed by the Kádár regime. (U)

The General Assembly, in the midst of discussing the Middle East when it received news of the attack, voted to adopt Hammarskjöld's plan for what was then a unique peace-keeping instrument--a United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) to be sent to Egypt to "secure and supervise an end to hostilities."* It adjourned at 3 a.m., and the Security Council met an hour later to deal with the Soviet attack on Hungary. After condemning the attack, Lodge submitted a resolution calling for immediate withdrawal of Soviet forces and creation by the Secretary General of a commission to enter Hungary, which only the Soviet representative voted against. In light of the Soviet veto, the Security Council then transferred the question to a second emergency session of the General Assembly and adjourned at 5:25 a.m. Delegations represented in both UN bodies had been in almost continuous session from 3 o'clock the previous afternoon.¹⁴⁷ (U)

The establishment of UNEF for the Middle East raised hopes and reinforced rumors that outside help was on the way to Hungary. One rebel fighter recalled his commander urging them to hold out a few more hours because UN troops would soon arrive. The next day the commander said much the same thing, adding: "The whole world has its eyes on us. The newspapers of the West talk of nothing else. Everywhere, they're holding demonstrations in our favor. And public opinion is insisting that help should be sent to Hungary." Another person claimed that RFE had asked the insurgents to keep

* Unlike the UN force established in 1950 to deal with North Korea's attack against South Korea, the UNEF for the Middle East in 1956 did not have troops furnished by any of the major powers.

fighting until the U.S. presidential election and that "as soon as the new President assumes his responsibilities, UN troops will certainly begin to arrive." A rebel radio station appealed for immediate UN help by having parachute troops dropped into Western Hungary. Later in the day another station addressed a long appeal to Hammarskjöld and the UN delegates, calling them "the last citadel of hope."¹⁴⁸ (U)

An American businessman who had taken refuge in a Budapest apartment building when the attack began on 4 November recorded in his diary that Hungarian soldiers during the day asked him when the UN troops would arrive. That evening, as building residents listened to the General Assembly proceedings, they prayed that the UN would be able to stop the fighting. Shortly after midnight, Lodge's resolution condemning Russia produced shouts of joy. The businessman's diary noted, "Much hope now." Three hours later: "Result of U.N. vote brings pandemonium. People hug my neck and kiss me. They discuss how much time it would take for plane to fly in U.N. delegation from New York." By 6 November rumors were circulating that two U.S. parachute divisions were being dropped in Hungary. People pointed to the businessman, smiled, and said: "American divisions."¹⁴⁹ (U)

Official Washington's immediate reaction to the attack registered shock and dismay. At noon on 4 November ISA, noting that the invasion was "undoubtedly facilitated by the Middle East crisis," recommended to Assistant Secretary of Defense Gordon Gray several responses it felt consistent with the policy of avoiding military conflict: (1) immediately sending observers to Hungary under the UN Secretary General's authority; (2) covertly encouraging protests and demonstrations in other satellite countries, particularly in Poland and the Hungarian minority areas of Romania,

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to create pressure on the Soviet flanks; and (3) staging a "practice alert" in southern Germany by the U.S. Seventh Army that would subtly indicate U.S. concern without provoking a Soviet reaction.¹⁵⁰ There is no evidence that Gray followed up on any of the recommendations. ~~(S)~~

At the Pentagon there was much hand-wringing and second-guessing. At a meeting of Defense's civilian leadership the morning after, Gray wondered whether "our basic assumption on all Satellite planning—don't antagonize the USSR—should not be reconsidered." Secretary Wilson pointed out: "The problem is that if you stir up these people, thousands get killed. You have to have a plan of action." Deputy Secretary Donald Quarles challenged Gray's suggestion. The Soviet Union, he said, could not accept satellite governments that were not communist or members of the Warsaw Pact. "We cannot help unless we are willing to risk a full-scale atomic war." Gray agreed, but he thought the UN would have sent a police force to Hungary had the Suez intervention not occurred.¹⁵¹ ~~(S)~~

Frustration boiled over a few days later when Beam told his committee that the United States had "heaven knows taken a tremendous interest in Hungary and either explored or accomplished every possible action." Roger Ernst, Deputy Director of ISA's Office of Planning, disagreed. He "felt soiled" by U.S. inaction. To him it was quite clear that the United States had not done everything it could. If the new NSC paper had been adopted on 1 November when it was scheduled for discussion, he thought "a better showing might have been made." Specifically, if the NSC had approved the paragraph dealing with covert aid to any new democratic government that might emerge, the United

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States could have carried out "a far more affirmative program to save either the state of Hungary or at least a more sizeable number of Hungarians."¹⁵² (S)

The press reported that suggestions made several days before for the United States to deter a possible attack by demonstrative movements of the Strategic Air Force or cancelling military leaves had not been approved. Nor did they apparently surface again at a 4 November discussion of Hungary and the Middle East that Eisenhower had with Allen Dulles, Acting Secretary Hoover, and other State officials, with Defense representatives notably absent. Adlai Stevenson had sent a letter to Eisenhower recommending that the UN immediately "mobilize large teams of official observers and fly them into Hungary, or at least the still-free parts of Hungary, and also into other satellite nations, such as Poland, that might welcome or consent to their presence." That afternoon the General Assembly approved a U.S. resolution calling for UN observers to be sent to Hungary. But the participants at the White House meeting decided against sending a UN armed force to Hungary.¹⁵³ (U)

In the immediate aftermath, it is easy to understand how UN intervention in Hungary and the Middle East became muddled in Hungarian minds. As they anxiously looked for UN help after Nagy's appeal to Hammarskjöld and with the rumor circulating of a delegation en route to Budapest, there came the General Assembly's request for a peacekeeping force to be sent to Egypt and for UN observers to be dispatched to Hungary. Regarding the latter, the Kádár government did not reply until 12 November when it rejected the idea on the grounds that any trouble within the country was purely a domestic affair.¹⁵⁴ (U)

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Shortly thereafter came the suggestion that Hammarskjöld himself should go to Hungary.¹⁵⁵ The government dragged its feet in responding to this request and finally rejected it, too, when he proposed a specific date.¹⁵⁶ Some have contended that if he or other UN representatives had entered the country before the second Soviet attack, things might have turned out differently.¹⁵⁷ Hammarskjöld, who resented insinuations that he should have tried to go sooner and that he did not appreciate the urgency of the Hungarian situation, felt that these were efforts to make him a scapegoat for the revolution's failure and to deflect blame from others for their lack of action. He pointed out that in the period from 28 October through the 4 November attack, no Security Council member "felt the situation was clear enough" to propose that he go to Hungary. Nor had a precedent been established for the Secretary General to act in such a situation without an enabling directive from the Security Council or General Assembly. For him the Suez crisis "had a time priority" in the UN; his handling of it was not by choice. "It was history itself," Hammarskjöld maintained, "which arranged it that way."¹⁵⁸ (U)

Perhaps the British had been right in refusing at first to join in bringing the issue before the Security Council for fear that it would only prolong the Hungarians' fight against hopeless odds. The prospect of UN assistance, whether through diplomacy or the dispatch of troops, did seem a major motive in their willingness to persevere. President of the International Rescue Committee Leo Cherne, who was in Budapest until just before the second Soviet attack, recalled: "The Hungarian people were not waiting for American troops." They "were waiting for the U.N." under the illusion that it "had an emergency police force, which of course it did not have."¹⁵⁹ (U)

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But a New York firm's interviews of refugees in Austria after the revolution suggest that the expectation of UN assistance had been an insignificant factor (see table 2). According to the way the firm categorized the answers, only 5% of the 965 interviewees thought that "confidence in the UN" was the reason for expecting assistance. The tabulation of answers, however, may be misleading. Unlike other questions put to interviewees, this one did not involve showing cards to elicit quantifiable responses. Here interviewers had to determine how to sort a wide variety of answers. It is clear from the arbitrary grouping of responses that considerable overlap existed. Moreover, the interviews were conducted after it had become obvious that the UN could do little for Hungary. By this time "confidence" in the body had to be low. If refugees had instead been asked specifically whether they had expected the UN to have a restraining influence on the Soviet Union in the period leading up to the second attack, or whether they had expected UN help in the form of an emergency force right after the attack, positive responses probably would have been much higher. (U)

Radio undoubtedly played a huge role during the revolution. From all accounts, Hungarians closely followed radio reports of UN deliberations. Much like internet connectivity during violent upheavals during the early 21st century, radio provided the primary means by which the Hungarian people learned what was happening inside and

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Table 2. Hungarians' Reasons for Expecting Western Aid*

	<u>Percent of Respondents</u>
West the only source of help	21
Foreign-western broadcasts	19
Hungary is part of anti-Communist West	18
Western propaganda	10
Hungary alone could do nothing; therefore we believed in Western aid	7
RFE broadcasts	7
Hungary's confidence in the UN	5
Nagy's appeal to the West for help	1
Others	6
TOTAL PERCENT†	104
TOTAL NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS	965

 Do you think the Hungarian people expected aid from the West, and from the U.S., in the uprising, or don't you think so?" Of the 1,007 persons asked the question, the 965 who said that they did expect aid were then asked question 10a: "What do you think led the Hungarian people to expect such aid?"

† Percentages, based on number of cases, add to more than 100% since some respondents gave more than one answer. [footnote in the original]

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outside the country. A number of foreign stations beamed programs into Hungary—the VOA, the BBC, other European outlets including Radio Madrid and Vatican Radio, as well as rogue transmitters such as that of the Russian-émigré NTS. But by far one station has received the most scrutiny and criticism—Radio Free Europe, in part because it was the one most listened to and listeners may have thought everything they heard emanated from it.¹⁶⁰ (U)

RFE emerged from the revolution a major villain accused of various sins, primarily of giving Hungarians the impression that the West would intervene militarily against the Soviet Union. It should be remembered that the station, which communist governments throughout Eastern Europe and left-wing opinion in Western Europe had attacked since its establishment in 1950, had steadily improved the quality of its programming and toned down the inflammatory rhetoric that often characterized the earlier broadcasts.¹⁶¹ RFE may have been attacked for its role in the Hungarian revolution more for what it had been, not for what it did then. (U)

That said, a few Hungarian-language broadcasts, contrary to guidance, contained outlandish statements, such as giving instructions on the making of Molotov cocktails. Many programs were of poor quality. Some vilified the Nagy government prior to 30 October, contrary to guidance and out of step with policymakers in Washington who were basically adopting a wait-and-see attitude toward Nagy. In an examination of 500 RFE scripts the only program identified that implied Western military intervention was a summary of the *Observer* article on the eve of the Soviet attack, with a comment added by an RFE editor: "In the Western capitals, a practical manifestation of western sympathy is expected at any hour."¹⁶² (U)

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If the output to Hungary of other stations, like VOA or the BBC, were examined with the care that RFE's was, they might not stand up as the models of dispassionate objectivity that some claim. By 1956 the difference in broadcasts to Hungary between RFE and the BBC may not have been pronounced. In July the British Legation in Budapest recommended that the BBC, RFE and VOA "let loose simultaneously a propaganda barrage" if parliamentary elections were held as planned later in the year, an event it believed would represent "a vast hoax." It wanted the BBC to consider whether to advise the Hungarian people to boycott the elections, spoil their ballots, or enter the names of non-communist political parties. Voters might be asked to organize a passive demonstration either before or during the voting, but the Legation recognized that it would be more dangerous to bring this off in Budapest than in the countryside.¹⁶³ Later, after the revolution had broken out, an American official complained about the sterile VOA Hungarian language programming that ignored the fighting in Budapest, while the BBC carried two strong commentaries condemning the Soviet intervention and, although acknowledging the difficulty in determining who had called in the Soviet troops, called for the removal from office of whoever was responsible.¹⁶⁴ (U)

Was Failure Inevitable?

Studies of the Hungarian revolution tend to dwell on the question of whether it was bound to fail, whether the participants could or should have done something differently. The Soviet Union obviously had the decisive voice. Whatever the West or the Nagy government did--or failed to do--after the presidium's 31 October decision to crush the uprising mattered little.¹⁶⁵ In conversations immediately afterward with Mikoyan and East European leaders, Khrushchev made clear his determination to go ahead regardless

of their views. At this point threatening or conciliatory Western gestures would likely have had no effect. (U)

To influence Moscow the United States needed to act before the presidium's decision. Several things might have been done differently. First of all, Eisenhower could have hastened the NSC's consideration of the matter, either by accepting Stassen's suggestion for a special meeting or by fixing tighter deadlines for the preparation of recommendations for action. Instead, he let the matter slide until the next regularly scheduled meeting on 1 November, a delay which allowed the illusion of moderation in Soviet behavior, the encouraging steps taken by the Nagy government, and the intrusion of the Suez crisis to undercut the urgency for action. If the NSC had come up with an attractive proposal by 28 or 29 October to be communicated to Moscow, it might have altered the outcome. (U)

Exactly what the United States should have attempted is, of course, open to debate. During the crucial early days, it basically did four things: (1) publicly expressed sympathy for the Hungarian people and general support for the revolution's goals; (2) took the lead in raising the issue in the Security Council; (3) assured the Soviet Union that it was not seeking a military alliance with Hungary or other East European countries; and (4) held out the prospect of limited economic assistance to governments in Eastern Europe if they achieved a measure of independence from Moscow. Implicit in the administration's response was the belief that the small chances of a successful revolution hinged on the United States taking a fundamentally hands-off position. Whether the revolution was to be crushed or would ultimately prevail, inaction seemed the preferred

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policy. This was especially the perception after the first four or five days when the prospects for success improved. (U)

If the United States had talked tough and engaged even in bluffing measures, as some advocated, there is no evidence that the Soviet Union would have been deterred from acting as it did. However, if Washington had offered a substantial concession, Moscow might have been interested. The approach it made was feeble. Bohlen's demarche the evening of 30 October merely repeated what Dulles and Eisenhower had been saying in public. It is difficult to comprehend what they hoped to accomplish and easy to understand the apparently casual dismissal. From the meager Soviet documentation available, reassuring public statements about U.S. motives in Eastern Europe by Dulles, Eisenhower, and Wilson, as well as the hands-off policy the press said Washington and its allies favored, did not seem to have factored into Moscow's thinking. (U)

Should the United States have put forward a more attractive proposal? Recalling how distressed Dulles and others at State had been, Murphy said that they "considered every possible avenue of the solution, what could be done, and really none of us had whatever imagination it took to discover another solution."¹⁶⁶ That is not true. In addition to Stassen's, several possibilities were proposed, but there is no indication that they reached Dulles. (U)

In a perceptive commentary at the height of the revolution, journalist Chalmers Roberts said that events seemed to be proving Dulles right about the way things would turn out in the satellites and vindicating the administration's encouragement of national communist governments. Although the Gomulka and Nagy governments were not yet

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Titoist, forces were at work that might eventually bring about the removal of Soviet troops from the two countries, a major U.S. objective. So far, he said, Dulles had "scrupulously" avoided endorsing the rebellion against the Nagy government and had concentrated on the outside intervention. Dulles knew "there must be no direct confrontation from which the Soviet Union could not retreat;" he wanted to find "a tolerable way for the Kremlin to pull back." Most of Roberts's diplomatic sources did not believe Moscow would withdraw, either "willingly or grudgingly," unless the West--particularly the United States--paid "a fair price at the proper moment." He understood that ideas under discussion in Washington included offers to withdraw U.S. forces from continental Europe or to close bases in Spain or the United Kingdom in return for a military withdrawal from the satellites. Roberts did not know of one other proposal. Within the U.S. Embassy in Vienna an informal working group recommended that the United States offer to withdraw forces from Italy in exchange for Soviet withdrawal from Hungary. To enhance credibility, the offer would be transmitted through the Yugoslavs. Although not opposed to the idea, Ambassador Thompson apparently did not pass it on to Washington.¹⁶⁷ (U)

The administration did not pursue a more active policy for several reasons. First, its policy did not call for encouraging violent upheavals since communist forces were expected easily to crush them. During the first few days of fighting, with its sources of information restricted, it seemed to doubt that the revolution would succeed. Secondly, time seemed to be working in the long run against the Soviet Union and the local communist regimes. Why should the West meddle and risk halting the trend toward greater satellite independence? Third, though the United States expected additional short-

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lived violent outbursts, it did not anticipate a prolonged, nationwide struggle like the Hungarian revolution. It had no plans on how to respond to such an eventuality. It belatedly learned its lesson and, after the second Soviet attack on 4 November, prepared a contingency paper in the event the Soviet Union decided to attack Poland.¹⁶⁸ Fourth, none of the major European allies or NATO as an organization supported a more active policy. Since Eisenhower had as a major goal—if not the most important—strengthening and maintaining European unity, a unilateral foray into Eastern Europe would have severely strained and possibly ruptured U.S. relations with its allies. Fifth, as Eisenhower explained afterward, Hungary's location, surrounded by communist countries and neutral Austria, did not allow an easy military intervention. Finally, he and European leaders feared that a more active policy might result in a global war. (U)

The worry that a more active approach might lead to war with the Soviet Union seemed to bother Eisenhower more than it did others. In comparing the situation confronting the Soviet leaders in Hungary with that facing Hitler at the end of World War II, he may well have exaggerated their sense of desperation. But the possibility of war certainly increased after the Anglo-French-Israeli invasion of Egypt and Moscow's threat to send volunteers to help defend that country. Adlai Stevenson was guilty of only slight rhetorical excess when he declared on 31 October that the world stood "on the brink of war again."¹⁶⁹ (U)

Although the comparison between the Hungarian revolution and the 1962 Cuban missile crisis should not be overdrawn, they both involved an extension of Soviet military power from which Moscow, for reasons of prestige, found it difficult to pull back. In both instances the United States had several days to weigh its options, from threatening

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military action to proposing diplomatic tradeoffs

[REDACTED] If the Eisenhower administration had made a similarly bold approach to Moscow and done it quickly, it might have been able to achieve the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Hungary, or at least secure a more favorable outcome. This is obviously speculation, especially in the absence of a more substantial Soviet documentary record. Perhaps nothing, even imaginative measures taken early on, would have worked. (U)

Stopping in mid-November [REDACTED] on the last leg of a European trip, Frank Wisner noted that prior to the revolution U.S. policy toward Eastern Europe had been designed "to maintain at an undiminished pace the various forms of pressure previously deemed useful," to be ready "to bring additional pressures to bear on the weak points as they develop," and to avoid "more extreme forms of provocation." During his talks [REDACTED] the [REDACTED] had "substantially endorsed" this approach. The Polish events, he said, "were actually anticipated and taken as an assumption" in the CIA's basic paper approved in the summer. These events had seemingly "validated our paper and our assumptions as to the probable course of developments there," as did the Hungarian events "up to the point when matters got out of control of the nationalist Communists, who had themselves started the fight, and moved swiftly to the point of explosion." Bemoaning the "rantings" and "anguished bleats" of Western journalists who had been in Budapest, who "were far more sweeping and bitter in their denunciations of American actions and American failures" than Hungarian refugees, Wisner urged that the

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United States not become "distracted and tormented by too much self criticism for our policies of the past eight years toward the Satellites—policies which were endorsed by Democratic as well as Republican administrations, and which have no doubt had much to do with the development of events in the Satellite areas up to the present point."¹⁷⁰ (U)

The Hungarian revolution represented a possible turning point which, if successful even in a limited way, would have dramatically altered the course of the Cold War and likely shortened it. For the Eisenhower administration, however, the risks of too active an involvement outweighed the advantages. Its cautious response, in part because of the Suez crisis, managed to avert an East-West military clash whose consequences would likely have represented a far greater disaster than the snuffing out of a nascent Hungarian democracy. Eisenhower and Dulles envisaged the demise of communism over a long period of time. In the end their patience earned its reward. (U)

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1. There is no comprehensive up-to-date bibliography of English-language material on the revolution. An extensive bibliography of works through 2002 in Hungarian, English, and other languages is in Békés, Byrne, and Ranier, eds, *1956 Hungarian Revolution*, 568-82 (U). For a review of four books in English that appeared in conjunction with the revolution's 50th anniversary, see Hobsbawm, "Could It Have Been Different?" (U)
2. House Cte on For Aff, *Report of the Special Study Mission to Europe*, 5 (U).
3. Hungarian and U.S. records, and to a lesser extent British, are mostly open. In recent years the Central Intelligence Agency has declassified significant material on the revolution. British intelligence records and those of the British mission at the United Nations during the revolution are still unavailable, although records of the British Legation in Budapest are open at the National Archives in Kew. The U.S. Legation destroyed its records when Soviet forces attacked the city on 4 November. Important Soviet records, mainly fragmentary notes of presidium meetings, have been released, but the Russian Government, as a general policy, refuses to release diplomatic cable traffic and other material of the early Cold War years. (U)
4. For example, see Gati, *Failed Illusions*, 18-21 (U); Sebestyen, *Twelve Days*, xxiii-xxv, 294-97 (U); and Lendvai, *One Day That Shook the Communist World*, 185-94 (U).
5. Kovács, Rogers, and Nagy, "Remembered or Forgotten?" 37 (U).

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6. See Landa, "*Almost Successful Recipe*." For the text of NSC 5608/1, "U.S. Policy toward the Soviet Satellites in Eastern Europe," 18 Jul 56, see Békés, Byrne, and Ranier, eds, *1956 Hungarian Revolution*, 152-56 (U). Regarding the Beam committee, see the editorial note, *FRUS 1955-57*, 25:167 (U).
7. Draft address, 18 Oct 56, 8-9, fldr Speech 11/27/56: "Task of Waging Peace," box 351, John Foster Dulles Papers, PU (U). Since the draft was typed, it is not possible conclusively to determine authorship. Dulles usually drafted his own speeches, so the language is probably his own.
8. Kramer, "Soviet Union and the 1956 Crises in Hungary and Poland," 169-74 (U); Persak, "Polish-Soviet Confrontation in 1956," 1290-1303 (U).
9. Telcon, Dulles and Hoover, 20 Oct 56, 10:30 am, Microfilm Reel 2, *Dulles/Herter Telephone Conversations* (U); INR memo, 20 Oct 56, *FRUS 1955-57*, 25:253-55 (U); *New York Times*, 21 Oct 56 (U). Murphy called Dulles that evening and said that a paper was being prepared that would be given to the President the next morning and would be sent to Dulles (telcon, Dulles and Murphy, 20 Oct 56, 6:05 pm, Microfilm Reel 2, *Dulles/Herter Telephone Conversations* (U)). The memo printed in *FRUS* is probably the one to which Murphy referred.
10. Tel WH 323 to Pres, 20 Oct 56, 7:15 p.m., fldr Dulles, Foster Oct '56 (1), box 7, Dulles-Herter Series, Whitman File, DDEL (U); Eisenhower, *Waging Peace*, 60 (U); remarks upon arrival in Denver and statement on reports from Poland, both 20 Oct 56, *Eisenhower Public Papers, 1956*, 978-81 (U). In *Waging Peace* (60, note 2), Eisenhower said that he received such intelligence reports daily, which he

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paraphrased, but the 20 October message in the Whitman File was the only one the author found at the Eisenhower Library. Another discrepancy is that the speech to which he said he appended the comment about the Polish situation was given at 12:15 pm, well before he received message WH 323.

11. Mins IAC mtg, 20 Oct 56, 4:00-4:45 pm, CIA-RDP82-00400R0001000090012-4, CREST, NACP (U); mins DCI mtg with Deputies, 22 Oct 56, fldr Minutes of Deputies' Meeting, CIA-RDP80B01676R002300200017-9, ibid (U).
12. Memcon, Murphy, Spasowski, et al, 20 Oct 56, 5 pm, *FRUS 1955-57*, 25:256-58 (U); Spasowski, *Liberation of One*, 338-40 (U). Eisenhower's brother, Milton, recalled a discussion about Poland with the President that he said took place the evening of 20 October but which their remarks, as he reconstructed them, suggest may have occurred later (*President Is Calling*, 354-55) (U).
13. Transcript, "Face the Nation," 21 Oct 56, in Branyan and Larsen, eds, *Eisenhower Administration*, 665-69 (U).
14. Drew Pearson, *Washington Post & Times Herald*, 26 Oct 56 (U).
15. Transcript, "Face the Nation," 669-70, cited in n 13 (U); notes, Sec's staff mtg, 22 Oct 56, fldr Minutes Aug. 1, 1956-Dec. 31, 1956, box 6, Entry 1609, Secretary's Staff Meetings, RG 59, NACP (U).
16. Memo Tresize for Bowie, 24 Oct 56, *FRUS 1955-57*, 25:266-68 (quotes, 267-68) (U).
17. Msg SX-2719 USAREUR G-2 to DeptA, 26 Oct 56, fldr Cables, Receipt #3, 1956, box 110, Entry 2020, Assistant Chief of Staff (G2) Intelligence Cables, RG

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- 549, NACP; CIA; OCI, *Current Intelligence Weekly Summary*, 25 Oct 56, pt 1:3, CREST, NACP (U).
18. Desp 222 Warsaw to For Off, 23 Oct 56, FO 417/53, Confidential Print: Poland, NAK (U).
19. *New York Times*, 23 Oct 56 (U). Journalist Cyrus Sulzberger suggested to retired General Lucius Clay that State secretly advise the new Polish Government of its willingness to provide economic aid, but not do anything to embarrass it. Clay agreed, and said he would immediately contact the President (diary entry, 22 Oct 56, Sulzberger, *Last of the Giants*, 334-35 (U)).
20. Address, Washington, D.C., 23 Oct 56, *Eisenhower Public Papers 1956*, 991-97, (quotes, 995) (U).
21. Address, New York, 25 Oct 56, *ibid*, 1020-27 (quote, 1022) (U); memo Elbrick for Sec, 24 Oct 56, fldr Hungary and Poland, box 29, Entry 1274, Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs Files, RG 59, NACP (U). The memo, with the remarks about Spasowskii deleted, is printed in *FRUS 1955-57*, 25:268-70 (U).
22. Tel 282 State to Belgrade, 12 Oct 56, and ed note, *FRUS 1955-57*, 26:749-51 (U); *New York Times*, 22 Oct 56 (U); address, Seattle, Washington, 24 Oct 56, *Department of State Bulletin*, 5 Nov 56, 722 (U).

23. 

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24. Györkei and Horváth, *Soviet Military Intervention in Hungary*, 9-10 (U).
25. The Legation's sharpest critic was Hungarian-speaking journalist Leslie Bain. See his articles published soon after the revolution, "Communism's Dry Rot" and "How We Failed In Hungary," and his book that appeared in 1960, *Reluctant Satellites* (U).

26.

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"Major Oversight on Our Part" (U); Kovács, "Understanding or Misunderstanding?" (U); and Kovács, Rogers, and Nagy, "Forgotten or Remembered?" (U).

27. The Legation lost telephone and telegraph contact with the outside world from the afternoon of 23 October until the morning of the 25th. For most of the day on the 24th the staff used an open Telex line that could also handle encoded messages; but it broke down and remained inoperable for several days. The first telegram

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about the unrest, sent on the 23rd, was not received in Washington until 7:15 a.m. on the 25th. During the two-day interruption, State had to rely on press accounts and reports by the government-controlled Radio Budapest. Communication with Washington was broken again from 5 a.m. on the 25th until 2 p.m. on the 27th, when a single message was transmitted in the clear through the Hungarian Foreign Ministry informing State that all Legation employees were safe.

Regarding the communications problems, see *FRUS 1955-57*, 25:275, n 6; 313, n 3; Kovács, Rogers, Nagy, "Forgotten or Remembered?" 7 (U); and memo Leverich for Murphy, 29 Oct 56, fldr Hungary and Poland, box 29, Entry 1274, Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs Files, RG 59, NACP (U).

28. Kovács, Rogers, Nagy, "Forgotten or Remembered?" 5 (U).
29. In addition to the 9 Communist countries which maintained embassies in Budapest, 18 non-communist countries and Yugoslavia had Legations there. At the beginning of 1956 the U.S. Legation had 20 people with official accreditation, the British Legation 11, and the French 9 (*A Budapesten akkreditált diplomáciai testület tagjainak névsora*, 5-7, 30-31, 93-95, 99-100, 110-12) (U). The Department of State's *Foreign Service List* for July 1956 showed 17 people, including the military attachés, as accredited to the Legation (U). The Legation staff also included code clerks, secretaries, and U.S. Marine guards.
30. Marton, *Forbidden Sky*, 179 (U). Rogers, First Secretary in the Legation, called State's failure to have a new minister in place when the revolution broke out "a serious dereliction of duty." (Kovács, Rogers, Nagy, "Forgotten or Remembered?" 8 (U). See also Irving, *Uprising*, 482 (U).

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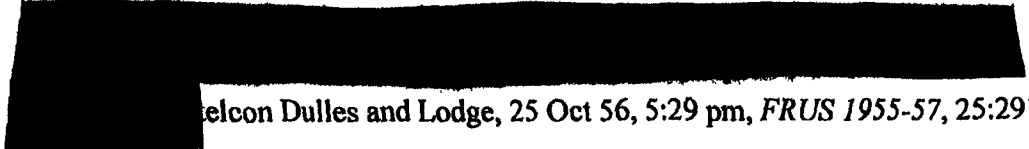
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31. Tels 2, 11, 14 State to Pretoria, 6, 11, 14 Jul 56; tels 11, 24 Pretoria to State, 12, 30 Jul 56; memo Elbrick for SecState, 27 Sep 56, w/atchd Biographic Summary: fldr 123 Edward T. Wailes, box 811, Central Decimal Files, RG 59, NACP (U); transcript teletype conv, 25 Oct 56, *FRUS 1955-57*, 25:284 (U).
32. Bain, "How We FGailed in Hungary," 26 (U); Marton, "Why Has the West Slept?" 27; Kovács, Rogers, Nagy, "Forgotten or Remembered?" 8-9 (U); interv Endre Marton by Martin Ben Swartz, 31 Oct 85; Swartz, "A New Look at the 1956 Hungarian Revolution," 573 (U) [REDACTED] Major Oversight on Our Part," 112 (U).
33. Kovács, Rogers, Nagy, "Forgotten or Remembered?" 7 (U).
34. Tel 154 Budapest to State, 23 Oct 56, *FRUS 1955-57*, 25:263-65 (U).
35. Tel 161 Budapest to State, 26 Oct 56, reel 3, Microfilm Reel C-0026, RG 59, NACP (U).
36. Tel 166 Budapest to State, 26 Oct 56, *ibid* (U). The message does not identify the man and notes that the other members of his group forbade him to divulge their names. He left his name and phone number and said he wanted to stay in touch with the Legation. Barnes informed State that it would accept any information he offered but would avoid the impression that it was negotiating with him.
37. Tel Budapest 214 to State, 2 Nov 56, Reel 7352, box 290, Entry 1014, Microfilmed Messages, RG 319, NACP (X).
38. Tel 171 Budapest to State, 28 Oct 56, *FRUS 1955-57*, 25:319-20; memo Elbrick to SecState, 31 Oct 56, summarized *ibid*, 320, n 5 (U).
39. Interv Jordan T. Rogers by Thomas Dunnigan, 22 Aug 06, 6, FAOHP (U).

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40. Tel IAI-IND 17306 CINCUSAFE Wiesbaden to CSAF, 1 Nov 56, microfilm reel 7352, box 290, Entry 1014, RG 319, NACP. The message contained Military Situation Report No. 1, as of 1400, 30 October, from the Air Attaché in Budapest.
41. CIA, "Hungarian Revolution and Planning for the Future," 1:101 (U).
42. For example, McCauley, "Hungary and Suez, 1956," 790 (U), states that during the 10 days leading up to the second Soviet intervention on 4 November, U.S. representatives in New York lobbied behind the scenes against any UN action on Hungary.
43. Recd of mtg, 23 Oct 56, *FRUS 1955-57*, 25:259-60 (U).
44. *New York Times*, 25 Oct 56; tel Varga to Dulles, 24 Oct 56, reel 3, Microfilm C-0026, RG 59, NACP (U); tel Varga to Dixon, 24 Oct 56, Taylor-Haraszti, ed, *Hungarian Revolution*, 99-100 (U); telcon Dulles and Lodge, 24 Oct 56, 6:07 pm, *FRUS 1955-57*, 25:273 (U (U)).
45. Telcons Foster and Allen Dulles, 25 Oct 56, 4:37 pm, and Foster Dulles and Pres, 25 Oct 56, 5:02 pm, *FRUS 1955-57*, 25:290, and n 2.
46. Memo, 38th mtg, Spec Cmte on Soviet and Related Problems, 25 Oct 56, 3:00 pm,  telcon Dulles and Lodge, 25 Oct 56, 5:29 pm, *FRUS 1955-57*, 25:291 (U).
47. Memo Cook and Pratt for Lodge, 25 Oct 56, fldr Hungary (1946-Nov 1956), box 92, Entry 1030-D, UN Mission Files, RG 84, NACP (U).
48. Tel MISUN 250 State to New York, 25 Oct 56, fldr 1956 Inc Tels US (Jul-Oct 56), box 17, Entry 1030-H, *ibid* (U).

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49. Tel 403 New York to State, 25 Oct 56, fldr Master File 296-445 (Oct 3-30, 1956), box 48, Entry 1030-F, *ibid* (U).
50. Tel 2981 State to London, 25 Oct 56, *FRUS 1955-57*, 25:292-93 (U); tel 313 State to Belgrade, 25 Oct 56, file 764.00/10-2556, Central Decimal Files, RG 59, NACP (U).
51. *New York Times*, 28 Oct 56 (U); tel 3282 For Min to New York, 27 Oct 56, Békés, Byrne, and Rainer, eds, *1956 Hungarian Revolution*, 250 (U).
52. Middleton, "Britain Cautious in Hungary Crisis," *New York Times*, 29 Oct 56 (U).
53. Tel 2290 London to State, 26 Oct 56, *FRUS 1955-57*, 25:303-04 (U); For Off min, 26 Oct 56, Taylor-Haraszti, ed, *Hungarian Revolution*, 103-05 (U).
54. Gardner, "Poisoned Apples," 82 (U).
55. Telcon Dulles and Pres, 26 Oct 56, *FRUS 1955-57*, 25:306-07 (U); tel 3008 State to London, 26 Oct 56, *ibid*, 307 (U).
56. Tels 417 New York to State, 27 Oct 56, fldr Master File 296-445 (Oct 3-30, 1956), box 48, Entry 1030-F, UN Mission Files, RG 84, NACP (U); tel 421 new York to State, 27 Oct 56, *FRUS 1955-57*, 25:315-16 (U).
57. Tel 211 State to New York, 27 Oct 56, fldr 1956 Inc Tels US (Jul-Oct), box 17, Entry 1030-H, UN Mission Files, RG 84, NACP (U); *Manchester Guardian*, 27 Oct 56 (U).
58. O'Connor, "America Takes the Initiative," *Observer* (London), 28 Oct 56 (U).
59. Ltr French, UK, and US Reps to SC Pres, 27 Oct 56 (Doc S/3690), Security Council, *Official Records*, Eleventh Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1956, 100; proceedings 746th SC mtg, 28 Oct 56, 4:00-9:50 pm,

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- Security Council *Official Records*:1-9 (quotes, 4) (U). The 27 October letter is also in Department of State *Bulletin*, 12 Nov 56, 757 (U).
60. Proceedings 746th SC mtg, 28 Oct 56, 4:00-9:50 pm, Security Council *Official Records*, cited in n 59 (U). Excerpts of Lodge's statement are in Department of State *Bulletin*, 12 Nov 56, 758-59 (U).
61. See for example Rogers's untitled presentation at George Washington University, 31 October 1986, fldr Hungary 1953-56, box 492, Subject files, OSD Hist (U).
62. Memo of disc, 301st NSC mtg, 26 Oct 56, Békés, Byrne, and Ranier, eds, 1956 *Hungarian Revolution*, 240-43 (U). A sanitized text is in *FRUS 1955-57*, 25:295-99 (U).
63. Diary entry, 26 Oct 56, Galambos, ed, *Papers of Dwight David Eisenhower*, 17:2334 (U); unsigned memo, "U.S. Policy with Respect to Poland and Hungary," (a typewritten marginal notation indicates the memo was prepared for the Planning Board meeting of 29 Oct), fldr U.S. Policy toward Develop. Poland/Hungary, box 16, ISA Policy Planning Staff files, Acc 65A-3500, WNRC (S).
64. Ltr Stassen to Pres, 26 Oct 56, fldr Dulles, Foster Oct '56, box 6, Dulles-Herter Series, Whitman File, DDEL (also Doc. CK3100439890, *DDRS*) (U); telcon Dulles and Stassen, 26 Oct 56, 3:39 pm, Microfilm Reel 5, Dulles/Herter Telephone Conversations (U); Dulles memcon, 26 Oct 56, 4:10 pm, fldr Memos of Conversation General-S (a), box 1, John Foster Dulles Papers, DDEL (U). The memcon is also Doc. CK3100245433, *DDRS* (U).

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65. Ltr Stassen to Eisenhower, 26 Oct 56, (U); telcon Dulles and Pres, 26 Oct 56, 7:06 pm, *FRUS 1955-57*, 25:306-07 (U); tel 3008 State to London, 26 Oct 56, *ibid*, 307 (U).
66. Address, Dallas, 27 Oct 56, Department of State *Bulletin*, 5 Nov 56, 695-99 (quotes, 697) (U). Several drafts, dating as early as 18 October, are in fldr Speech 10/27/56: "Task of Waging Peace," box 351, John Foster Dulles Papers, PU (U). Draft no. 9, identified as Dulles's and dated 25 October, also bears Eisenhower's handwritten comments and changes. The quoted passage in the speech as given replaced this passage in this draft: "There are great tasks of liberation to be performed. We dare not be impetuous, but equally we dare not seem indifferent. To be at once prudent and effective will put heavy demands upon our future foreign policy." See also interv Robert Amory, Jr., by Martin Ben Swartz, 26 Mar 87, in Swartz, "New Look at the Hungarian Revolution," 486 (U).
67. Dallas address, cited in n 66 (U). The British Embassy in Washington felt that the speech reflected the administration's anxiety "to dispel any Soviet fear that the United States intends to exploit the current situation in the satellite area to the point of creating a strategic threat to the Soviet Union." That anxiety was also reflected in a newspaper report that Dulles, through the Yugoslav Foreign Minister, had secretly signaled the Soviet Union that the United States was agreeable to a buffer zone of neutral states in Europe from the Baltic to the Black Sea, a rumor the British Embassy was unable to confirm but which it thought consistent with U.S. policy (ltr Barker to Brimelow, 2 Nov 56, Haraszti-Taylor, ed, *Hungarian Revolution*, 152-53 (U).

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68. Leighton, *Strategy, Money, and the New Look*, 15-16 (U).
69. Transcript, "Face the Nation," 28 Oct 56, *Wilson Public Statements, 1956*, 3:1078-83 (U).
70. *Chicago Tribune*, 28 Oct 56 (U); Beke, *Student's Diary*, 113 (U).
71. Davis Paper, "Developments in Poland and Hungary: US Policy and Courses of Action in the Light Thereof," 28 Oct 56, fldr Europe (East), box 108, Entry 1272, Policy Planning Staff Files, RG 59, NACP (U). A handwritten notation indicates that Dulles approved the paper on 29 October. Another notation, in someone else's hand, states that the NSC Planning Board discussed it on 29 October.
72. Paper, 28 Oct 56, cited in n 71 (U).
73. Interv Harold E. Stassen by Richard D. Challener, 3 Jun 65, 45-47, JFDOHP, PU (U).
74. Dobrynin, *In Confidence*, 33-35 (U).
75. Tel 177 Budapest to State, 29 Oct 56, *FRUS 1955-57*, 25:329 (U).
76. Memo MWB [?], "Poland—Hungary: Proposals Discussed But Not Adopted by the Board Assistants," 31 Oct 56, fldr Soviet Satellites in E. Eur. & US Policy, box 7, NSC Staff, Special Staff Series, DDEL (S).
77. Memo Weber to Lay et al, 29 Oct 56, fldr Soviet Satellites in E. Eur. & US Policy (2), box 7, NSC Staff Special Staff Series, DDEL (S); unsigned memo, "U.S. Policy with Respect to Poland and Hungary," cited in n 63 (S); Thomas, *Very Best Men*, 146 (U).
78. [REDACTED] "Major Oversight on Our Part," 124 (U).

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79. Memo Guthrie for ASD/ISA, 6 Nov 56, fldr 091.3 Hungary. box 16, ISA Files, Acc 60A-1339, RG 330, WNRC (U). On 6 November ISA concluded that the request had been overtaken by events and quietly dropped the matter.
80. Ibid, 8-9 (para. 24) (U).
81. NSC 5616, "U.S. Policy toward Developments in Poland and Hungary," 31 Oct 56, fldr NSC 5616, box 44, OSANSA Records, White House Office Files, DDEL (U). A declassified version, with only paragraph 24 excised, is on the Digital National Security Archive website.
82. Memo Radford for SecDef, 31 Oct 56, atchd to memo Lay for NSC, 6 Nov 56, Doc. CK3100246045, *DDRS* (U).
83. Briefing paper for 302nd NSC mtg, Item 2: U.S. Policy on Developments in Poland and Hungary, [31 Oct 56], fldr 5616 U.S. Policy toward Develop. Poland & Hungary, box 16, ISA-NSC Files, Acc 65A-3500, RG 330, WNRC (S).
84. Memo Weber for Lay, 31 Oct 56, fldr Soviet Satellites in E. Eur. & US Policy, box 7, NSC Special Staff Series, DDEL (S).
85. SNIE 12-2-56, "Probable Developments in East Europe and Implications for Soviet Policy," 30 Oct 56, *FRUS 1955-57*, 25:330-35 (U).
86. Interv Lauris Norstad by Hugh Ahmann, 22-25 Oct 79, 416-17, OAFH (U).
87. Political Division Paper (C-M(56)110), "The Thaw in Eastern Europe," 24 Sep 56, Békés, Byrne, and Rainer, eds, *1956 Hungarian Revolution*, 168-77 (U).
88. Summary red, NAC mtg, 24 Oct 56, 10:15 am (C-R(56)56), NAC Records, NATO (U); tel Polto 910 Paris to State, 25 Oct 56, Microfilm Reel 7334, Box 289, Entry 1014, Microfilmed Messages, RG 319, NACP (U).

89. Memo AsstSecGen for Pol Affairs for SecGen, 27 Oct 56, NAC Central Registry Files, NATO ~~(C)~~.
90. Note, AsstSecGen for Pol Affairs, "The Situation in Hungary," 27 Oct 56, *ibid* ~~(C)~~.
91. Draft paper, AsstSecGen for Pol Affairs, "Possibilities for Council Action on Hungary," 27 Oct 56, *ibid* ~~(S)~~. A copy of the paper is in FO 371/122380, Foreign Office: General Political Correspondence, NAK (U), and is printed in Haraszti-Taylor, ed, *Hungarian Revolution*, 112-13, which mistakenly identifies it as a British Foreign Office draft (U).
92. Tel 180 UK Del Paris to For Off, 27 Oct 56, FO 371/122377, Foreign Office: General Political Correspondence, NAK (U).
93. *Ibid* (U).
94. For a summary of the discussion of Hungary at these meetings, see Kecskés, "North Atlantic Treaty Organization, 120-22 (U).
95. *Ibid*, 131 (U).
96. Tels 430 and 434 New York to State, 29 Oct 56, fldr Master File 296-445 (Oct. 5-30, 1956), box 48, Entry 1030-F, UN Mission Files, RG 84, NACP (U).
97. Tels 225 and 228 State to New York, 31 Oct 56, 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm, fldr 1956 Inc Tels US (Jul-Oct), box 17, Entry 1030-H, *ibid* (U).
98. Tel 200 Budapest to State, 31 Oct 56, *FRUS 1955-57*, 25:349-50 (U).
99. Telcon Dulles and Pearson, 30 Oct 56, 3 pm, *ibid*, 16:865 (U); Owen notes, 30 Oct 56, fldr Staff Meeting Minutes 1956, box 110, Entry 1272, Policy Planning Staff Files, RG 59, NACP (U). More than a month later, on 5 December, Owen

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prepared a revised version of the meeting notes (ibid) (U). It contained the following additional language regarding the Middle East: "It was generally agreed that as a matter of moral principle, which coincided with the national interest, the US should condemn the Israeli aggression against Egypt and disassociate itself from the British and French ultimatum." The new section on Hungary omitted altogether the final conclusion about Hungary's long-term prospects. No explanation was given as to why these changes were made.

100. Tel 992, Moscow to State, 30 Oct 56, *FRUS 1955-57*, 25:335-38 (quotes, 336, 338) (U).
101. Malin working notes, presidium mtg, 30 Oct 56; "Declaration by the Government of the USSR on the Principles of Development and Further Strengthening of Friendship and Cooperation Between the Soviet Union and other Socialist States," 30 Oct 56: Békés, Byrne, and Ranier, eds, *1956 Hungarian Revolution*, 295-99, 300-02 (U).
102. Tel 993 Moscow to State, 30 Oct 56, fldr Dulles, Foster, Oct. '56 (1), box 6, Dulles-Herter Series, Whitman File, DDEL (U); also Doc. CK3100187323, *DDRS* (U).
103. Tel 1005 Moscow to State, 30 Oct 56, *FRUS 1955-57*, 25:347-48 (U). See, for example, Swartz, "New Look at the 1956 Hungarian Revolution," 306, n 523 (U).
104. Malin working notes, presidium mtg, and atchd extract, 31 Oct 56, Békés, Byrne, and Ranier, eds, *1956 Hungarian Revolution*, 307-09 (U). For Khrushchev's recollections of the meeting, see Khrushchev, ed, *Memoirs of Nikita Khrushchev*, 3:644-61 (U), and Talbott, ed, *Khrushchev Remembers*, 416-29 (U).

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105. Mins Sec's Staff mtg, 31 Oct 56, 9:15 am, fldr Minutes Aug. 1, 1956-Dec. 31, 1956, box 6, Entry 1609, Secretary's Staff Meetings, RG 59, NACP (U).
106. Israelyan, *On the Battlefronts of the Cold War*, ____ (U).
107. Tel Serov to Mikoyan, 28 Oct 56, Cold War International History Website (U). Regarding the presence of Oliveiras and Vest in the Legation, see transcript of teletype conv, 25 Oct 56, *FRUS 1955-57*, 25:284 (U). There is no indication of how seriously Moscow took Serov's report.
108. Lomax, *Hungary 1956*, 128-29 (U) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] For background on the NTS, see Dorril, *MI6*, 404-24, 513-15 (U). See also tel C-126 USARMA Budapest to CSA and CSAF, 31 Oct 56, microfilm reel 7352, box 290, Entry 1014, Microfilmed Messages, RG 319, NACP (U).
109. Interv William Stearman by Martin Ben Swartz, 5 Jun 86, in Swartz, "New Look at the 1956 Hungarian Revolution," 593-94 (U). Stearman, who spoke German and had been working at the U.S. Mission in West Berlin, was detailed to the Vienna Embassy on 3 November. Therefore, his first-hand experience primarily covers the period after the 4 November attack [REDACTED]
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110. Schlesinger, *Austrian Neutrality*, 37-38 (U); *New York Times*, 31 Oct 56, 4 Nov 56 (U).
111. Entry, 31 Oct 56, fldr Diary 1953-1957, box 5, Hughes Papers, PU (U); telcon, Dulles and Nixon, 31 Oct 56, quoted in Lucas, *Britain and Suez*, 92 (U).
112. Radio and television rpt, 31 Oct 56, 7 pm, *Eisenhower Public Papers 1956*, 1060-66 (quotes, 1061-62) (U).
113. *Baltimore Sun*, 2 Nov 56 (U).
114. Ed note, *FRUS 1955-57*, 16:901; memo of disc, 302nd NSC mtg, 1 Nov 56, *ibid*, 902 (U).
115. Telcon Eisenhower and Dulles, 1 Nov 56, 8:40 am, *ibid*, 901 (U); extracts, memos of disc, 302nd NSC mtg, 1 Nov 56, *ibid*, 25:358-59 (U); *ibid*, 16:902-16 (quote, 907) (U).
116. Memo Elbrick for SecState, 1 Nov 56, fldr Hungary (1946-Nov 1956), box 92, Entry 1030-D, UN Mission Files, RG 84, NACP (U).
117. Memo Freers for Elbrick, 1 Nov 56, fldr Hungary and Poland, box 29, Entry 1274, Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs Files, RG 59, NACP (U).
- The idea of a proclamation of Hungary's neutrality may have come from a student newspaper circulating in Budapest on 31 October, which stated that "we are in dire need of the friendship of the Western powers. We are in dire need of an international convention in which the four Western powers would assure the neutrality of Hungary on the pattern of that in Switzerland and Austria." (Beke,

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Student's Diary, 112) (U). It is not clear which four Western powers the newspaper had in mind.

118. CIA note, 1 Nov [56], and paraphrase of Budapest tel, 1 Nov 56, received 3:10 p.m., fldr Speeches 1956, box 4, Hughes Papers, PU (U). See also Hughes's typewritten, undated note, entitled "Philadelphia Speech," *ibid* (U). In addition to the erroneous information about Soviet troops re-entering Budapest, the press reports also mistakenly said that Soviet planes had conducted bombing raids in the fighting around airfields and that, according to Budapest radio, Tildy had replaced Nagy, whom people blamed for the bloodshed, as head of the government.
119. Entry, 1 Nov 56, fldr Diary 1953-1957, box 5, *ibid* (U).
120. Address, Philadelphia, 1 Nov 56, 9:30 pm, *Eisenhower Public Papers 1956*:1066-74 (quotes, 1068, 1070-71) (U).
121. Proceedings 561st plenary meeting, 1 Nov 56, 5 pm, UN General Assembly *Official Records*, First Emergency Special Session, 10-12 (U).
122. Telcon Dulles and Lodge, 2 Nov 56, 4:11 pm, *FRUS 1955-57*, 16:938 (U).
123. Tel For Off to New York, 2 Nov 56, Haraszti-Taylor, ed, *Hungarian Revolution*, 161 (U); tel New York 1027 to For Off, 2 Nov 56, in Békés, "Hungarian Question on the UN Agenda," 112-13 (U), and Haraszti-Taylor, ed, *Hungarian Revolution*, 164-66 (U); tel 2162-2163 New York to For Min, 2 Nov 56, *DDF 1956*, 2:152-53 (U).
124. Tel New York 1027 to For Off, cited *ibid*.

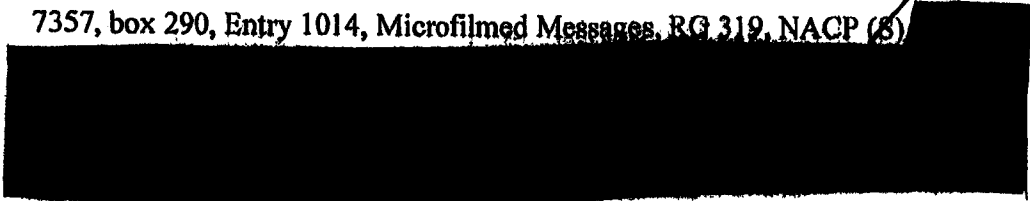
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125. Ibid. Lodge's report of the agreement differed slightly from Dixon's. According to him, they all agreed that the U.K. and France would not submit a substantive resolution nor would the United States submit a procedural one. Lodge would make a speech near the beginning of the meeting, the Cuban or another member would be asked to suggest after all the speeches that no further action was possible that evening, and there would be a follow-up meeting the next day. This would allow Lodge to consult with his two colleagues on both resolutions the following morning (tel 475 New York to State, 2 Nov 56, *FRUS 1955-57*, 25:368-69 (U).
126. Proceedings 752nd mtg, 2 Nov 56, 5:00-8:50 pm, Security Council *Official Records*:1-27 (U). Excerpts of Lodge's statement are in Department of State *Bulletin*, 12 Nov 56, 759-61 (U).
127. Tel New York to For Off, 3 Nov 56, cited in n 124 (U).
128. Tel 475 New York to State, 2 Nov 56, *FRUS 1955-57*, 25:368-69 (U).
129. Memcon Hoover and Phleger w/Pres, 3 Nov 56, 11:10 am, *FRUS 1955-57*, 25:369, n 11 (U).
130. Tel 1038 New York to For Off, 3 Nov 56, in Békés, "Hungarian Question on the UN Agenda," 115-116 (U); memcon, 3 Nov 56, quoted in ed note, *FRUS 1955-57*, 25:372-73 (U).
131. [change in British and French tactics at UN on 3 Nov]; tel 2184Paris to State, 5 Nov 56, *FRUS 1955-57*, 16:996 (U).
132. Proceedings 753rd SC mtg , 3 Nov 56, 3-6:30 pm, *Official Records*, 1-23 (U). For an exchange of letters in 1961 between Lodge and the editor of the *Hungarian*

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- Quarterly*, which had published an article critical of Lodge's handling of the Hungarian revolution, see Kovács, ed, *Fight for Freedom*, 206-09 (U).
133. Tel 1050 New York to FO, 4 Nov 56, Békés, "Hungarian Question on the UN Agenda," 118-19 (U).
134. See, for example, a statement by Minister of State Ferenc Farkas (Peasant Party); the article by Laszlo Nemeth, member of the presidium of the Writers' Union, which was broadcast on Radio Free Kossuth; and a statement by Geza Losonczy at a press conference for Hungarian and foreign correspondents, all on 3 November (Free Europe Committee, *Revolt in Hungary*, 79-82 (U).
135. Békés, "1956 Hungarian Revolution and the Declaration of Neutrality," 486 (U).
136. Tentative notes (Howe), ActgSec staff mtg, 2 Nov 56, 9:15 am, fldr Minutes Aug. 1, 1956-Dec. 31, 1956, box 6, Entry 1609, Secretary's Staff Meetings, RG 59, NACP (U). An extract is in the editorial note, FRUS 1955-57, 25:364 (U).
137. Interv Llewellyn Thompson by Philip Crowl, 29 Jun 66, 21-22, JFDOHP, PU (U); Drake, datelined Vienna, "Hungary Alarmed by Soviet Troops," *Los Angeles Times*, 3 Nov 56 (U); tel 199 State to Budapest, 3 Nov 56 (dispatched 6:50 pm (00:50 am in Budapest), FRUS 1955-57, 25:373-74 (U).
138. Tel 219 Budapest to State, 3 Nov 56, 1:00 pm, reel 7357, box 250, Entry 1014, Microfilmed Messages, RG 319, NACP (S).
139. Interv Charles Wheeler, nd, National Security Archive website (U).
140. Tel 219 Budapest to State, 3 Nov 56, cited in n 138 (S); Radio Free Kossuth announcement, 3 Nov 56, 9:10 am, quoted in Free Europe Committee, *Revolt in Hungary*, 74 (U); Leblond in *Le Dauphiné Libéré* (Grenoble), 3 Nov 56, in Lasky,

- Hungarian Revolution*, 222 (U); Wood, "Failed 1956 Hungarian Revolution Remembered," 18 Oct 56, *VOANews.com* (www.voanews.com/english/archive) (U); Marton, *Forbidden Sky*, 172 (U); tel 196 State to Budapest, 3 Nov 56, 4:30 pm, reel 7357, box 250, Entry 1014, Microfilmed Messages, RG 319, NACP (S).
141. Proceedings 752nd mtg, 2 Nov 56, 5:00-8:50 pm, Security Council *Official Records*, 10-11 (U); International Commentary No. M-1 (Script No. 5), 3 Nov 56, fldr Free Europe Committee, 1956 (3), box 54, C. D. Jackson Papers, DDEL (U); tel 70 706 Budapest to Paris, 3 Nov 56, 5:10 pm, *DDF*, 1956, 3:161 (U). Granville (*First Domino*, 175 (U)) erroneously summarized the script, indicating that the Cuban representative "submitted a proposal to send a U.N. committee to Hungary."
142. Tel C-132 Army Attaché Budapest to DeptA, 3 Nov 56, 1600, microfilm reel 7357, box 290, Entry 1014, Microfilmed Messages, RG 319, NACP (S) 
143. Tels Budapest 224 and 226 to State, 3 Nov 56, Microfilm Reel 290, Entry 1014, RG 319, NACP (U); tel 560 Budapest to For Off, 3 Nov 56, 6:10 pm, FO 371/122380, NAK (U).
144. Draft ltr, nd, fldr Hungary and Poland, box 29, Entry 1274, Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs Files, RG 59, NACP (U). Although it bears no drafting date, the text refers to "my address to the nation of two nights ago" which made it clear "we are not seeking military allies in eastern Europe but simply wish those countries to be friends who are free."

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145. *Observer* (London), 4 Nov 56 (U).
146. Interv Amory, in Swartz, "New Look at the 1956 Hungarian Revolution," 484-85; Amory, "Hungary '56," 20-23 (U); tel Polto 994, 4 Nov 56, file 740.5/11-456, box 3136, Central Decimal Files, RG 59, NACP (U).
147. *Manchester Guardian*, 5 Nov 56 (U).
148. Szabo, *Boy on the Rooftop*, 88, 110, 113 (U); Teglas, *Budapest Exit*, 88-89 (U); broadcasts, Free Radio Dunanpentele and Free Radio Csokonya, 4 Nov 56, 1:12 and 4:20 pm, "Hungarian Revolt: Hungarian Radio Stations," 82-84 (U).
149. Diary entries, 4-6 Nov 56, Hiott, "Close-Up Story of Last Fight," 33 (U).
150. Memo Eur Region ISA for Gray, 4 Nov 56, fldr 000.7 Hungary, box 16, ISA Files, Acc 60A-1339, RG 330, WNRC ~~(S)~~.
151. Livesay notes, Joint Secs mtg, 5 Nov 56, fldr Joint Secretaries 4th Quarter 1956, box 8, AFPC Meeting files, Acc 77-0062, RG 330, WNRC ~~(S)~~.
152. Memo Ernst for Harr, 9 Nov 56, fldr 092 Hungary, box 16, ISA files, Acc 60A-1339, RG 330, WNRC ~~(S)~~.
153. *New York Times*, 5 Nov 56 (U). The portion of the discussion dealing with the Middle East is described in memcon (Goodpaster), 4 Nov 56, *FRUS 1955-57*, 16:976-77 (U).
154. *New York Times*, 13 Nov 56 (U).
155. Ibid, 14 Nov 56 (U). A press despatch from Vienna (*Los Angeles Times*, 12 Nov 56) of an interview Mindszenty had reportedly given on 4 November to Western journalists after taking refuge in the U.S. Legation, which quoted him as urging that Hammarskjold come to Budapest immediately, is probably misleading. It

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probably misleading. It may have represented remarks made well after 4 November. Mindszenty recalled meeting in the Legation with American journalists on the evening of 5 November and mentioned the two most important issues they raised, neither of which was a visit by Hammar skjold (Mindszenty, *Memoirs*, 213-14 (U)). However, the memoirs of one of the journalists, Endre Marton (*Forbidden Sky*, 186), uses the same language as the Vienna 12 November dispatch and dates the interview as 4 November.

156. Having announced his intention to accompany the first contingent of UNEF troops to Egypt (they arrived together on 15 November), Hammar skjold offered also to go to Hungary to oversee distribution of UN relief supplies. When the Kádár government replied that he would be welcome to come but "at a later date," he set the date for 16 December. The government rejected that date as unsuitable and proposed no alternative time. (*New York Times*, 4, 6 Dec 56) (U)
157. For example, see Ernest Nagy's comments in Kovacs, Rogers, Nagy, "Forgotten or Remembered?" 33 (U).
158. Lash, *Dag Hammar skjold*, 92-93 (U); Urquhart, *Hammar skjold*, 233-43 (U).
159. Cherne's response during a question-and-answer period following his speech, "1958—Year of Survival," before the industrial College of the Armed Forces, Washington, DC, 14 Mar 58, 15, NDUL (U).
160. Johnson, *Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty*, 95 (U). Among many other treatments of RFE's role in the revolution are Mickelsen, *America's Other Voice*, 91-103, Puddington, *Broadcasting Freedom*, and Gati, *Failed Illusions*, 166-71 (U)

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161. For a summary of major criticisms of RFE and the Free Europe Press by U.S. and foreign officials, US newspaper correspondents, and native listeners, see the paper, "Criticism of Radio Free Europe," September 1956, CIA-RDP78-02771R000200230002-0, CREST, NACP (U).
162. Johnson, *Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty*, 94-103 (U).
163. Min Cope, 10 Jul 56, FO 1087/3, Budapest Legation Files, NAK (U).
164. Tel Dir Munich Radio Center to Dir International Broadcasting Service, 25 Oct 56, *FRUS* 1955-57, 25:276 (U).
165. For example, the contention has been made that the UN needlessly delayed responding to Nagy's 1 November appeal to Hammarskjöld and that by acting more quickly it could have changed the outcome of the revolution (Gaskill, "Timetable of a Failure.") (U)
166. Interv Robert Murphy by Richard Challener, 8 Jun 65, 46, JFDOHP, PU (U).
167. Roberts, "Dulles' Decision May Greatly Affect History," *Washington Post and Times Herald*, 29 Oct 56 (U); interv John Mapother by Martin Ben Swartz, 23 Mar 87, in Swartz, "New Look at the Hungarian Revolution," 561-62 (U).
168. NSC 5705/1, "U.S. Policy Toward Certain Contingencies in Poland," 25 Feb 57, Doc. CK31001 13759, *DDRS* (U). Because the paper was not declassified until 1996, it did not appear in the *FRUS* volumes. Regarding the paper's development and main provisions, see Marchio, "Risking General War in Pursuit of Limited Objectives" (U).
169. *Baltimore Sun*, 1 Nov 56 (U).

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170. Memo, 13 Nov 56, fldr Correspondence, box CL 1, Luce Papers, LC (U).

Attached to the memo is a typewritten chit: FRANK WISNER dictated the

attached notes [REDACTED] on November 13, 1956, the day after he returned from

[REDACTED] Some of Wisner's colleagues and friends believed that his

anguish over the failure of the revolution contributed to a nervous breakdown

shortly afterward and to the deterioration in his mental health and eventual suicide

in 1965 (Hersh, *Old Boys*, 402-04 (U), and Thomas, *Very Best Men*, 144-52 (U)).

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OFFICIAL RECORDS AND PERSONAL PAPERS

Central Intelligence Agency, Washington, DC



Dwight D. Eisenhower Library, Abilene, Kansas

Ann Whitman File

John Foster Dulles Papers

C. D. Jackson Papers

C. D. Jackson Records

NSC Staff Papers

Operations Coordinating Board Files

White House Office Files

Hoover Institution, Stanford, California

Paul Henze Papers

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty Corporate Records

Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Clare Boothe Luce Papers

OSD 1.4 (C), (d)

CIA 1.4 (C), (d)

National Archives, College Park, Maryland

General Records of the Department of State (RG 59)

Central Decimal Files

Executive Secretariat, Daily Summary (Entry 396H)

Executive Secretariat, Daily Staff Summary (Entry 396I)

Intelligence Reports (Entry 449)

Miscellaneous Intelligence Reports (Entry 451)

Policy Planning Staff Files (Entry 558)

Policy Planning Staff Files (Entry 1272)

Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs Files (Entry 1274)

NIEs, SEs, and SNIEs (Entry 1373)

Secretary's Staff Meetings (Entry 1609)

Records of Foreign Service Posts of the United States (RG 84)

Records of the Mission to the United Nations (Entry 1030)

Records of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (RG 218)

Central Decimal Classified File (Entry 17)

Geographic Classified File (Entry 20)

Chairman's File, Admiral Radford (Entry 51)

Records of the Central Intelligence Agency (RG 263)

Records of the National Security Council (RG 273)

Records of the United States Information Agency (RG 306)

Records of the Army Staff (RG 319)

Microfilmed Messages (Entry 1014)

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Records of United States Army, Europe (RG 549)

Assistant Chief of Staff (G2) Cable Files (Entry 2020)

CREST (Central Intelligence Agency Records Search Tool) Database

National Archives, Kew, London

Foreign Office: General Correspondence (FO 371)

Foreign Office: Confidential Print, Poland (FO 417)

Foreign Office: Confidential Print, Russia and Soviet Union (FO 418)

Foreign Office: Confidential Print, United States of America (FO 462)

Budapest Legation Files (FO 1087)

North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Brussels

North Atlantic Council Central Registry

Historical Office, Office of the Secretary of Defense, Washington, DC

Subject Files

Open Society Archives, Budapest

Radio Free Europe Records

Background Reports

Audience Analysis Reports

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Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey

Allen Dulles Papers

John Foster Dulles Papers

Emmet Hughes Papers

George F. Kennan Papers

Livingston Merchant Papers

Washington National Records Center, Suitland, Maryland

Records of the Office of the Secretary of Defense (RG 330)

ISA Files (Accession 60A-1025)

ISA files (Accession 60A-1339)

OSD Files (Accession 63A-1575)

Special Operations Files (Accession 63A-1575)

Charles E. Wilson Files (Accession 63A-1768)

OSD Subject Files (Accession 64A-2093)

ISA Policy Planning Staff Files (Acc 65A-3500)

ISA-NSC Files (Accession 68A-4024)

AFPC Meeting Files (Accession 77-0062)

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Almost Successful Recipe:
The United States and East European Unrest
prior to the 1956 Hungarian Revolution

Throughout the Cold War the United States tried to maintain a delicate balance in its policy toward the Soviet satellites in Eastern Europe.* It sought to promote enough disaffection to loosen their ties to the Soviet Union but not so much as to provoke violence and brutal retaliation by the local Communist regimes or Moscow. In a 1953 remark that applied to the entire region, U.S. High Commissioner for Germany (HICOG) James Conant said the aim in East Germany was to "keep the pot simmering but not to bring it to a boil."¹ When the pot boiled over, as it did there in 1953 and in Poland and Hungary in 1956, the Eisenhower administration made clear, as would later administrations, its unwillingness to intervene militarily, a move that might precipitate war with the Soviet Union. Over the years labels attached to the policy meant little. Whether called containment or liberation, bridge building, a gentle nudge, or détente, the approach toward the Soviet bloc, with temperature adjustments and varying emphases, basically followed the same recipe. (U)

The administration's passivity in responding to unrest masked an internal debate inherited from Truman's over how best to maintain the balance.² Early studies

* This study treats East Germany as one of the East European satellites, along with Czechoslovakia, Poland, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, and Albania, although policymakers often viewed East Germany separately from the others or as linked to the overall German question.

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emphasized the apparently more aggressive nature of Eisenhower's policy, giving much weight to Republican rhetoric during the 1952 presidential campaign that seemed to signal a break with Truman's approach, and to the persistent recommendations of Eisenhower's activist aide, C. D. Jackson.³ They contended that the goal was to "roll back" Soviet control of Eastern Europe, words that appeared infrequently in policy papers or government officials' private and public statements. Later works have pointed out that the administration early on abandoned thoughts of overthrowing the satellite regimes and instead sought to encourage their evolution along the lines of Tito's national communism in Yugoslavia.⁴ Other recent scholarship has argued that while Eisenhower may not have pursued as aggressive a policy as once thought, in effect he talked a tough game. As a result, the administration's bellicose rhetoric needlessly prolonged the Cold War and laid the groundwork for a U.S. "national security state."⁵ (U)

U.S. interest in the region, dating back to World War I and derived from emotional ties felt by Americans of East European descent, assumed a military aspect after World War II. In its dealings with the USSR, the Truman administration tried to use American resources and power to prevent the expansion of Soviet influence, a policy promulgated by diplomat George Kennan that became known as containment. When communists seized power in one East European country after another and threatened to do so in France and Italy, the administration countered with strong measures, including Truman Doctrine assistance to Greece and Turkey, Marshall Plan aid to Western Europe, airlifting food and supplies into West Berlin during a Soviet blockade, and taking the lead in establishing the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). (U)

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The operative policy paper on Eastern Europe, NSC 58/2 of December 1949, noted that the westward advance of Soviet power had been checked, at least for the time being, and substantial progress had been made in developing the defensive capabilities of the Western European nations. "The time is now ripe for us," the paper stated, "to place greater emphasis on the offensive to consider whether we cannot do more to cause the elimination or at least a reduction of predominant Soviet influence in the satellite states of Eastern Europe." It continued:

These states are in themselves of secondary importance on the European scene. Eventually they must play an important role in a free and integrated Europe; but in the current two-world struggle they have meaning primarily because they are in varying degrees politico-military adjuncts of Soviet power and extend that power into the heart of Europe So long as the USSR represents the only major threat to our security and to world stability, our objective with respect to the USSR's European satellites must be the elimination of Soviet control from those countries and the reduction of Soviet influence to something like normal dimensions.

The paper stressed that only measures short of war were to be employed. A resort to war "should be rejected as a practical alternative,"⁶ an injunction which guided policymakers throughout the Cold War.

To help achieve the objective U.S. intelligence and military organizations established contact with resistance elements in the communist-dominated countries. The outbreak of war in Korea in June 1950, raising fears that the Soviet Union might launch an attack on Western Europe, made such contacts seem more important. A decision was made to try to develop large-scale underground forces in Eastern Europe, particularly in Poland, to retard the advance of the Red Army if war came and to assist U.S. airmen downed behind enemy lines. In part to meet this possible military requirement in Europe and also because of the war in Asia, the Office of Policy Coordination (OPC), the CIA's

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covert operational arm, expanded dramatically. Between 1949 and 1952 personnel strength increased ten-fold and its budget soared from [REDACTED]

Expectations varied as to what could be accomplished behind the Iron Curtain. Army and Air Force representatives thought much "could be done by clandestine means in Eastern Europe to develop resistance mechanisms capable of producing a massive retardation contribution." State, CIA, and some Defense officials put aside their belief that these representatives "were engaging in a very great deal of wishful thinking" and "went along."⁷ (U)

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The 1952 Election Campaign: Tit for Tat

The 1952 election, which saw Eisenhower decisively defeat Democratic candidate Adlai Stevenson and the return of the Republicans to the White House after an absence of two decades, represents an illusory watershed in policy toward Eastern Europe.⁸ The issue dominated the early part of the campaign, with Republicans denouncing the Truman administration's policy of containment as too defensive. Eisenhower and others, particularly the party's chief foreign policy expert, John Foster Dulles, who had resigned his position as ambassador at large to take an active part in the campaign, called for greater U.S. initiative in weakening the Soviet hold on the satellites without promoting violence, what they called the "peaceful liberation" of countries behind the Iron Curtain. Although their words were obviously aimed at Americans of East European descent, they believed in what they were saying. The rhetoric was not just a gimmick designed to win votes. But the harsh attacks produced a sharp response from Democrats, who castigated the talk of liberation as recklessness. Partisan hyperbole thus obscured the two parties'

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underlying agreement on how to deal with Eastern Europe and left the impression that the new administration would pursue a more forceful policy than it intended. (U)

In addition to Dulles, the campaign brought to prominence C. D. Jackson, an executive with *Time-Life* and President of the National Committee for a Free Europe (later renamed the Free Europe Committee). Jackson, who had worked under Eisenhower during World War II on psychological warfare operations, arranged an unusual meeting in May 1952 in Princeton, New Jersey, to discuss ways to strengthen efforts in this field. Participants included academics, representatives from Radio Free Europe (RFE), and prominent government officials, including CIA Deputy Director Allen Dulles and State's Charles Bohlen. Jackson told the group that RFE had created salients in Eastern Europe but was not prepared to follow up, because no one thought it could have been done "as deep and as fast." He claimed that U.S. high-level officials had failed publicly to state a long-term desire for the satellite peoples to be free. Yet "two billion people are looking over our shoulder all the time, on both sides of the Iron Curtain, and they are going to get encouragement or discouragement or faith or despair out of what our big men say. The 'big man' doesn't have to be precise."⁹ (U)

After much discussion the group drafted a statement for a high-level official to make. Allen Dulles preferred that it be issued soon, before the political parties' nominating conventions in July. If it appeared to be an electoral appeal, "it will lose its effect abroad to the people to whom it is addressed." He was not too concerned about its impact on the satellite populations:

I am not sure that one of the things that we have lacked in these countries is maybe a martyr or two to inspire these people. This thing is never going to come about unless there are people who are ready and willing to stand

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up and be counted and take the consequences. After all we have had over a hundred thousand casualties in Korea—but there are more than eighty million in Eastern Europe, and if we have been willing to accept these casualties, I wouldn't worry if there were a few casualties or a few martyrs behind the Iron Curtain without desiring to stir up a situation of a revolt.

Dulles thought that the United States had essentially been on the defensive in conducting psychological operations. Perhaps the time had "come when in certain areas, among them the 'satellite' states, we should go over to the offensive." Bohlen did not feel the proposed statement contained anything Truman and Secretary of State Dean Acheson had not already said. Although he and Dulles agreed to work on getting the government to release it, nothing seemed to have come of their efforts.¹⁰ (U)

Jackson had more success elsewhere. He sent a copy of the conference proceedings and statement to the person he hoped would become the "big man," his former boss, Supreme Allied Commander in Europe General Eisenhower, who had recently declared his candidacy for president. Impressed with Jackson's call for a more vigorous psychological warfare program, Eisenhower used him during the campaign as an adviser and speechwriter.¹¹ It is perhaps more than coincidental that many of the ideas the Princeton group discussed appeared a fortnight later in a magazine article written by Foster Dulles, Allen's brother, which strongly criticized the administration's containment policy.¹² His views were nothing new. He had said much the same thing in a 1950 book in which he argued that history had shown how dictatorships could "be shaken from within" by peaceful methods.¹³ (U)

At its July convention the Republican Party adopted a foreign policy platform plank, largely the handiwork of Foster Dulles, promising that it would repudiate secret

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understandings entered into during World War II, specifically the Yalta agreement, which, it charged, had consigned Eastern Europe to the Soviet sphere of influence. It would also make clear that the United States, "as one of its peaceful purposes, looks happily forward to the genuine independence" of the satellite nations. What gave the plank a partisan bite was the declaration that the new policy would "mark the end of the negative, futile and immoral policy of 'containment' which abandons countless human beings to a despotism and godless terrorism." The Democratic Party platform said some of the same things, yet in a milder way: "We look forward to the day when the liberties of Poland and the other oppressed Soviet satellites . . . will be restored to them and they can again take their rightful place in the community of free nations." It promised to expand Voice of America (VOA) programming "for penetration of the 'Iron Curtain,' bringing truth and hope to all the people subjugated by the Soviet empire."¹⁴ (U)

Before launching his campaign, Eisenhower met with Republican Congressman Charles Kersten (Wis.), sponsor of an amendment to the 1951 Mutual Security Act appropriating \$100 million for the purpose of recruiting, training, and arming East European refugees to support the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).¹⁵ Kersten, who talked about forming the refugees into units for use in overthrowing the satellite governments, tried to elicit from the candidate an endorsement of his objective. Eisenhower refused. While Democratic nominee Stevenson privately expressed alarm over the Republicans' anxiety "to create the illusion of some positive foreign policy of their own," the British Embassy in Washington thought their comments at the beginning of the campaign were "surprisingly mild and reasonable." Instead of condemning the Truman administration's basic policies, Eisenhower and Dulles maintained that these

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policies had been poorly implemented. "Indeed, if we leave aside the legitimate political rhetoric—upon which much of the discussion by the press and politicians has naturally been focused," the Embassy remarked, "we find like the Red Queen that after all this running we are very much where we were before." It noted that Dulles had explained "emphatically that he does not want a series of bloody uprisings and reprisals, but rather to preoccupy the Kremlin with its own homework and with holding down the restiveness of its captives." He had been reticent to describe specific actions, proposing little that was not already "covered by present policies, save for the emphasis on greater coherence which is in fact needed." The Embassy regarded his statements and the platform "as almost straight electioneering, albeit electioneering with as wide an eye open as possible to the likelihood that opportunities for radical change will not look so brilliant when the facts have to be faced." Hence, Dulles had made "great efforts to describe a policy which really seems to be different and more forthright but at the same time to avoid commitments to specific action which might boomerang dangerously."¹⁶ (U)

The liberation theme produced the campaign's initial major disagreement, with the Republicans firing the opening salvo. In late August, before the American Legion convention in New York, Eisenhower delivered his first major campaign speech, declaring that "the American conscience can never know peace" until the satellite peoples "are restored again to being masters of their own fate." The U.S. Government "must tell the Kremlin that never shall we desist in our aid to every man and woman of those shackled lands."¹⁷ (U)

However, W. Averell Harriman, Director for Mutual Security, former Ambassador to the Soviet Union, and an unsuccessful contender in 1952 for the

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Democratic presidential nomination, warned that the notion of liberation was a "trap" that would lead to premature uprisings, like the 1944 Warsaw uprising.* Dulles called Harriman's view "nonsense." The only trap he saw was in the Democrats' platform, because "they look forward to liberation of all these peoples, but they aren't willing to do anything about it. That's a trap to get votes. . . ." He denied that Eisenhower's policy meant violent revolution. Instead, "quiet" methods like passive resistance, work slowdowns, and industrial sabotage would be employed.¹⁸ (U)

Republican statements brought a rebuke from Stevenson, who called them "irresponsible and dangerous." He suggested that Dulles "could serve the country better with more candor and less claptrap." Speaking in a heavily Polish-American Detroit suburb, he said that Eisenhower's speech "had aroused speculation here and abroad that if he were elected, some reckless action might ensue in an attempt to liberate the people of Eastern Europe from Soviet tyranny." He vowed he "would not say one reckless word on this matter," because the "grip of Soviet tyranny upon your friends and relatives cannot be loosened by loose talk or idle threats." Elsewhere in Michigan on the same day, Stevenson declared that he had no fundamental difference with Eisenhower on foreign policy, which he described as "building the unity and collective strength of the free countries to prevent the expansion of Soviet dominion and control" and "gradually but surely lessen the relative power of the Soviet Union on world events." President Truman

* On 1 August 1944, as the Red Army approached Warsaw, Polish resistance forces within the city rose up against the Germans. During the 63 days of fighting that followed, Soviet forces did not enter the city. As many as 15,000 Polish insurgents and upwards of 150,000 civilians were killed.

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joined the fray, defending his administration's approach to Eastern European problems and denouncing the insincerity of Republican rhetoric.¹⁹ (U)

Like the British Embassy, the Voice of America stood outside the partisan electioneering. In a broadcast to Western Europe, it stressed that the Republican and Democratic candidates agreed on the main points of foreign policy. Despite a charge by Moscow's *Pravda* that Eisenhower's speech meant that he intended to conquer Eastern Europe and Asia and concern expressed in West European newspapers over what he did mean, the VOA assured listeners he had said nothing about using force to liberate the satellites and that Dulles had emphasized the peaceful nature of the process. "In saying that the American conscience can never be at peace while so many captive peoples live in slavery," the VOA continued, Eisenhower was "expressing the profound feeling Americans have not only now, but have had throughout their history." It quoted Stevenson as voicing essentially the same sentiment. In fact, later in the month sounding much like Eisenhower and Dulles, Stevenson held out the hope that "the intensification of peaceful pressures against the Soviet Empire will sharpen the internal contradictions within that empire; that, in time, free peoples may lift their heads again in Eastern Europe, and new policies and leadership emerge within the Soviet Union itself."²⁰ (U)

During the campaign Eisenhower reminded Dulles to make clear in his public statements that the liberation of the satellites would come through peaceful means, something that Dulles on one occasion had failed to do. Eisenhower also privately assured a former Polish general involved with the decision to launch the 1944 Warsaw uprising that he would continue to support the liberation of the satellite nations without encouraging their peoples to start premature or futile uprisings. After the election, Dulles,

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whom Eisenhower promptly named as his Secretary of State, went to great lengths to point out that the nation's foreign policy would remain fundamentally the same under the new administration. Journalist C. L. Sulzberger stated that Europeans wanted 'very much to have a full explanation of the new political word 'liberation' and to know what it means in terms of policy," which he thought might not differ that much from Truman's approach. It was "not yet understood that it can represent a logical maturation of what is so widely known as 'containment.'"²¹ (U)

Did Dulles regret the excessive campaign rhetoric he and others had employed? Probably not. At his confirmation hearing in January 1953, where Democratic members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee chided him for Republican distortions of the historical record, he defended the denunciations of the Truman administration as factual, but he did not want to justify them at the hearing for fear of "reopening old controversies." Years later Livingston Merchant, who served under Dulles as Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs, observed that he "had a certain amount of practical political cynicism." Dulles thought that "both sides in an American election use an extravagance of language to clothe what may be really very small differences which the public should be sufficiently sophisticated to accept." For him, talking about "rollback" was "clothing in exaggerated electioneering language a thought in which he believed—namely that a more aggressive policy of containment should be pursued, with the ultimate hope for a result of a loosening of the ties between the satellites and the Kremlin." Robert Bowie, who became State's Director for Policy Planning, said that Dulles never "thought that 'liberation' meant what it was labeled by people who were trying to make fun of it." He never intended to use force to liberate the satellites; he

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"simply did not like the overtones of containment, or at least the way in which containment was accepted by some people—namely, as settling for the status quo." But Dulles had not clearly worked this out in his own mind, according to Bowie, and his phrasemaking "made him subject to the quite legitimate criticism that he didn't really mean what he appeared to be saying." Indeed, only a few months into the new administration, Eisenhower's only criticism of Dulles was that he sometimes did not understand the effect of "his words and manner" on other people.²² (U)

During the campaign each party thus fashioned a straw man for attacking the other. Republican charges that Truman's containment policy represented weakness, born of a willingness to accept the long-term subjugation of the satellite peoples and perhaps "sell them down the river," were patently false. As was the Democrats' portrayal of Republican advocacy of a more vigorous containment policy as tantamount to a call for war. (U)

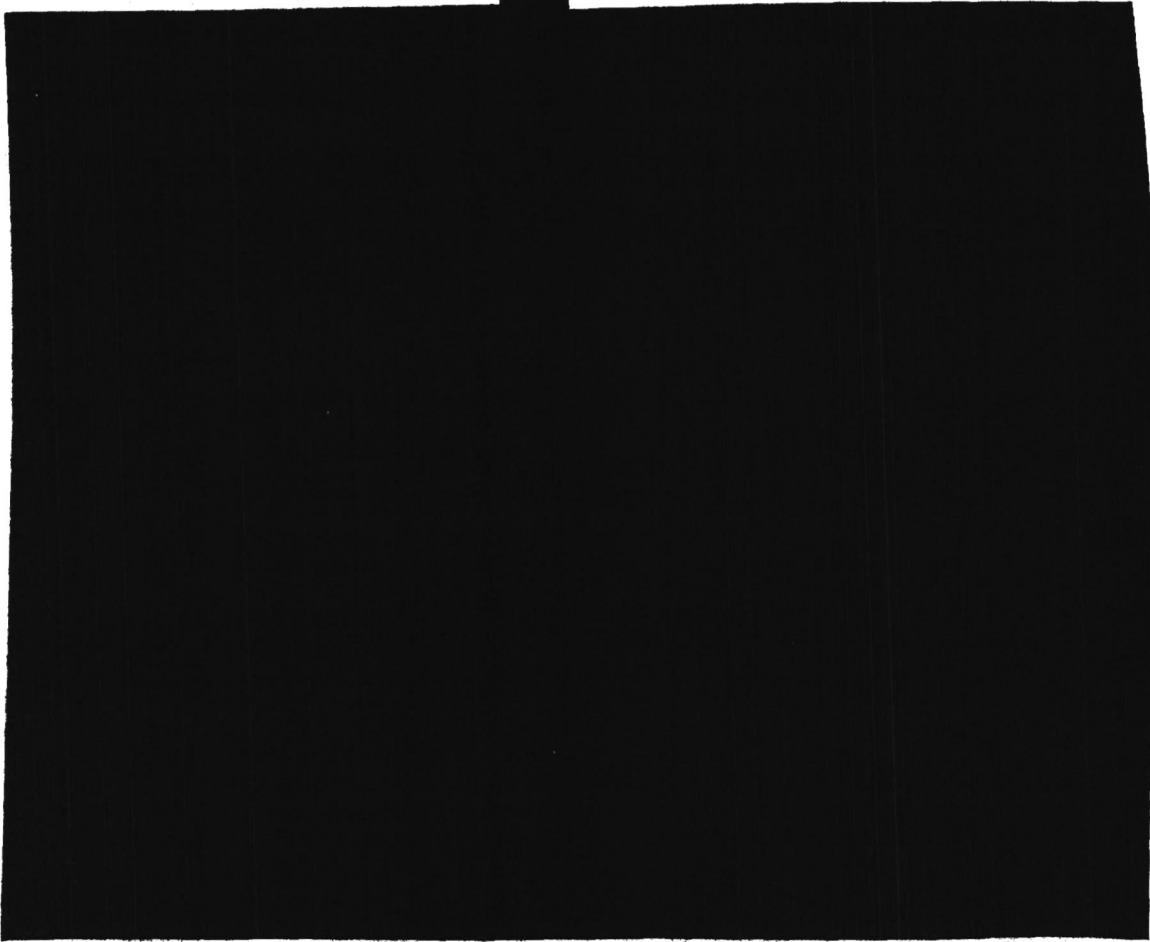
Sobering Setbacks

How realistic was the talk during the campaign about ending communist rule in Eastern Europe? On this question opinion within the government was divided, at least regarding the short-term capabilities for stirring revolt. Recent operations, according to a CIA paper in 1952, "revealed that the Communist authorities do not have complete control of the situation in these countries, and that the area can be successfully penetrated." On the other hand, a Psychological Strategy Board (PSB) staff member felt that capabilities for penetration "had in the main been decreasing and that we had no clear way to increase them in sight." By 1952 many émigrés at Radio Free Europe had begun to doubt whether liberation of their homelands would occur soon, a view shared by

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Franklin Lindsay, CIA's Deputy Chief for Political and Psychological Warfare. A trip to Europe during the late summer persuaded him that new techniques, especially in stimulating "unorganized mass passive resistance," had to be developed. Lindsay concluded that the increasingly effective security controls behind the Iron Curtain made it quite difficult for resistance organizations to conduct subversive operations with any significant impact, much less survive.²³

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* The author did not conduct research in the files of the Army's Counter Intelligence Corps at the NACP. The only published account of its European operations is Sayre and Botting, *America's Secret Army*, which focuses primarily on the organization's history prior to 1945.

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Still another fiasco, not yet fully apparent, involved [REDACTED] operations in Albania. The substantial literature on the subject leaves certain aspects of the operations unclear. While attention has tended to focus on the degree of responsibility of Soviet mole Kim Philby for their ultimate failure, the impression has arisen that U.S.

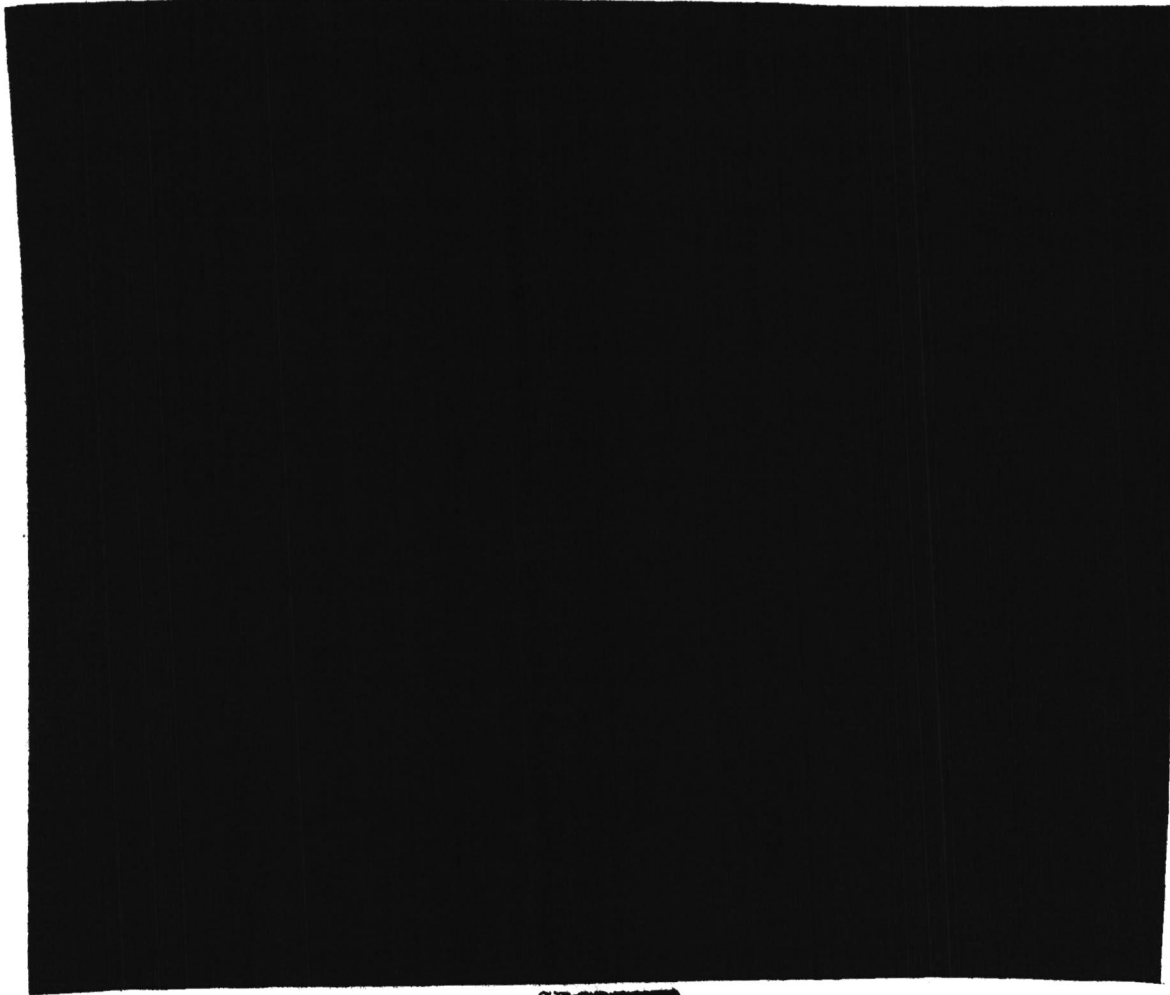
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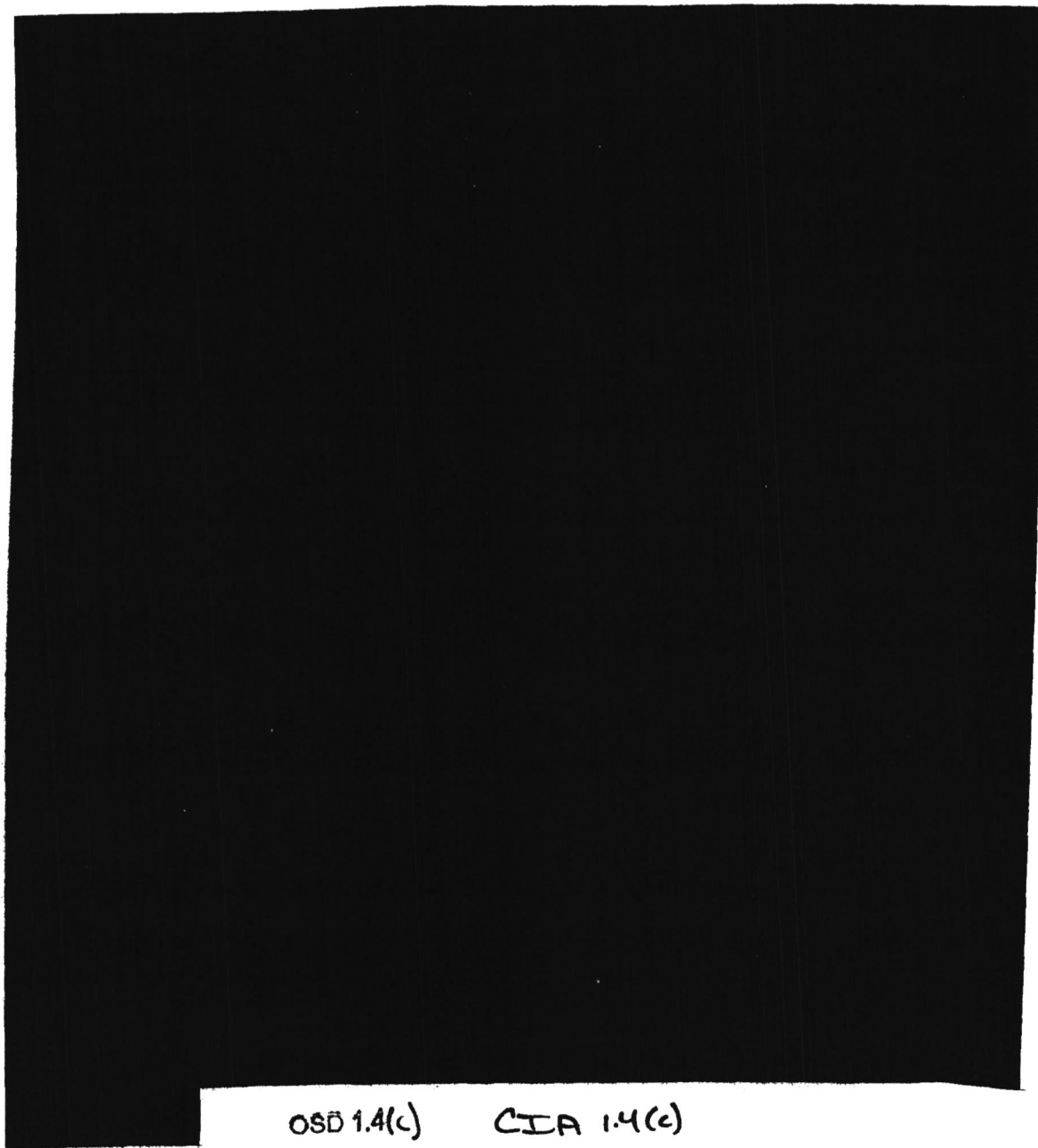
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activity was more extensive than it really was and that its primary aim was to overthrow the Communist regime of Enver Hoxha. In fact, U.S. objectives, mostly of a probing nature, were not intended to topple him.²⁷ (U)

Neither the United States nor Great Britain maintained diplomatic relations with the tiny, economically backward country. The British broke off talks to reestablish relations in 1946 after Albanian mines in the Strait of Corfu damaged two British destroyers causing 44 fatalities. That same year U.S.-Albanian negotiations to resume relations collapsed over disagreement regarding the Albanian Government's assumption of the country's prewar indebtedness.²⁸ (U) CIA 1.4(c) OSD 1.4(c)

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The agency concluded that a successful overthrow was unlikely, a conclusion that produced a more modest aim—"to reduce the value of Albania by persistently and continuously undermining Communist authority and by harassing the regime with domestic difficulties." The idea of an overthrow was not abandoned but put on a back burner. On learning that the American approach now was "to let Hoxha stew in his own

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juice," a Foreign Office representative quipped that British policy would go further by adding "a little pepper."³³ (U)

U.S.-sponsored infiltrations did not begin until November 1950, a year later than originally planned. They were a tragic comedy of errors. The first involved nine men parachuting into the country. Fortunately, the pilot had trouble locating the drop point, where security forces again were waiting. In frustration he dropped the men at a considerable distance. Nevertheless, one was captured, while the others made their way out via Yugoslavia. A second mission in July 1951, this time with 12 men, resulted in complete disaster: 10 were killed and the others captured. In October the survivors were tried in public in Tirana. During the trial the Americans inexplicably dropped another team of five, which also encountered a waiting security force that killed two of them; the others escaped.³⁴ (U)

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Certainly, the prospect of overthrowing Hoxha had not increased. In November 1951 an intelligence estimate concluded that the Albanian resistance represented a nuisance but "not an immediate threat" to the regime. If it remained divided and without substantial external aid, the security forces would be able to control it. The estimate noted

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that Albania's neighbors--Italy, Greece, and Yugoslavia--all preferred "continuance of the status quo to a change which would be favorable to the others."³⁶ (U)

Instead of bringing operations to a close, the dismal results led the CIA [REDACTED] [REDACTED] merely to modify their approach by conducting smaller and hopefully more secure operations [REDACTED]

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Despite seemingly better results, doubts lingered. Often portrayed as a zealous advocate of paramilitary operations in Eastern Europe, the CIA's Deputy Director for Plans, Frank Wisner, voiced reservations as early as June 1952. As Smith had done the previous fall, Wisner pointed to the project's cost, as well as the way it reduced the agency's capability to go after "other and perhaps more useful targets." Furthermore, a liberated Albania would become an economic drain on the United States. Wisner said it might be wiser to concentrate on disorganizing the country's already weak economy, "thus leaving the Russians with the unhappy alternative of pouring in resources of their own or allowing the fate of a rotting and desperate Albania to appear before all the world

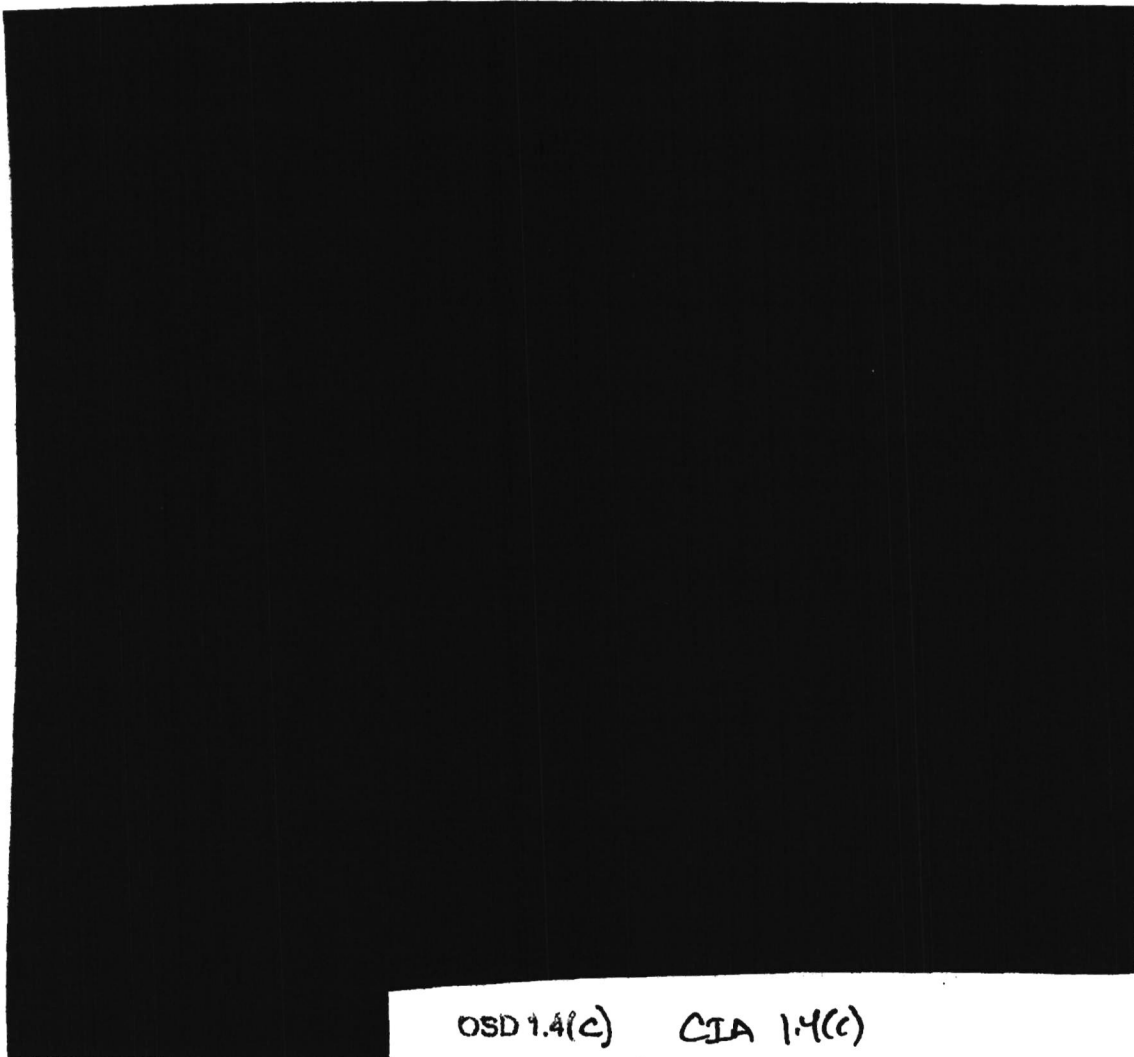
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as further evidence of what becomes to countries and peoples within the Soviet orbit."³⁹



An intelligence estimate at the end of 1952, also reflecting wariness, indicated that all of Albania's neighbors and Great Britain still opposed an attempt to overthrow Hoxha. They would resent any coup attempt carried out against their advice or without consultation as a "reckless and provocative action," especially if the U.S. hand was apparent. Regardless of the outcome, the major Western European powers would feel "too much had been risked for too small a potential gain."⁴⁰ (U)

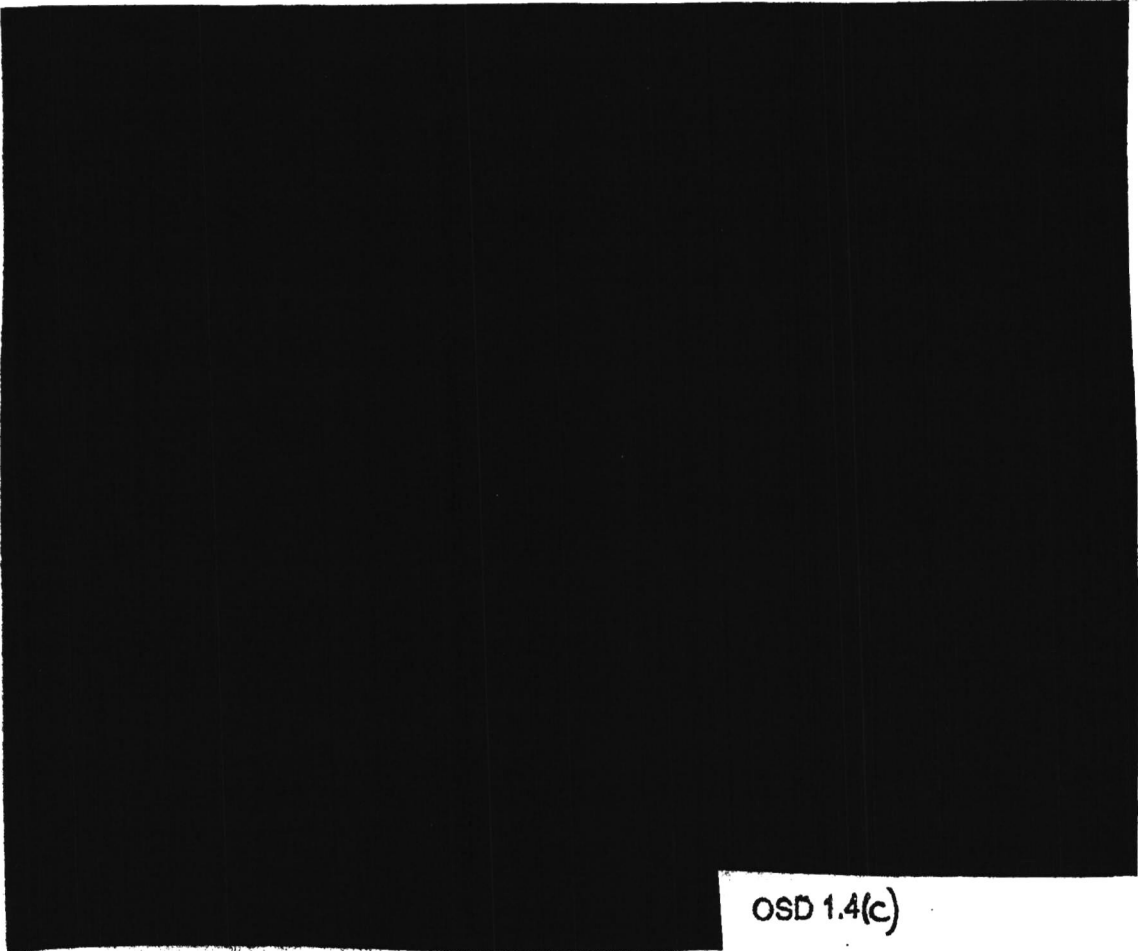


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The agency was also having difficulty meeting the two requirements U.S. military authorities had established for it in Eastern Europe: developing escape and evasion (E & E) facilities for U.S. servicemen's use in the event of war with the Soviet Union and creating paramilitary capabilities to help retard an initial Soviet advance. From 1950 on the CIA had attempted to infiltrate agents into all the bloc countries to contact existing resistance groups or stimulate formation of such groups, but had "found no organized resistance worthy of the name."

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On top of these problems, relations between Defense officials and the CIA were not always smooth. While the Deputy Secretary of Defense was the department's designated representative for dealing with the CIA, day-to-day liaison on covert operations and paramilitary activities was handled by the Office of Psychological Policy, which in July 1953 was expanded and renamed the Office of Special Operations. The office head, retired Marine General Graves Erskine, often delegated liaison responsibilities to staff member William Godel. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Though East Germany was a special case where U.S. assets were greater and operational difficulties less pronounced, the Eisenhower administration inherited an extremely shaky situation in the other satellites: the declining success of illegal infiltration; absence of evidence that organized resistance groups existed; the CIA's termination or shrinkage of more than half its projects and curtailment of the training of nearly all émigré paramilitary units; [REDACTED] the embarrassing and costly [REDACTED] operations; and an Albanian project bereft of British involvement and of questionable efficacy and security. With Albania, however, Truman

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did what Eisenhower eight years later, with preparations to invade Cuba, would do for Kennedy. Each turned over to his successor well-advanced plans to attack a communist government, ventures that would both end in disaster. (U)

Stalin's Death: "The Chance for Peace"

The death on 5 March 1953 of Josef Stalin, the dictator who had ruled the Soviet Union for almost three decades, should not have found the Eisenhower administration poorly prepared. But it did. The previous November the PSB had put together a contingency paper detailing actions to take in the event Stalin died. But Jackson, now Eisenhower's Special Assistant for Cold War Activities, dismissed the paper as terribly inadequate and argued, after Stalin's death, that it be scrapped and a completely new effort undertaken.⁴⁶ (U)

The key element in a fresh plan Jackson and the PSB hastily devised was a speech to be given by the President offering the olive branch to the new collective Soviet leadership headed by Georgii Malenkov, a speech that came to be called "The Chance for Peace." Not delivered until 18 April, it evolved out of intensive discussion and numerous drafts, with input from several persons. The delay greatly upset Jackson, who told the President he considered his first weeks on the job a failure because he had not persuaded him, Secretary Dulles, or anyone else "that it was essential to move immediately on *the* single most important event since V-J Day."⁴⁷ (U)

In substance as well as tone, the speech differed significantly from what some drafters had originally intended. Walt Rostow, for one, felt it should give the Soviet bloc peoples "a new vision of possibilities" by emphasizing "strands which unite rather than divide them from the rest of the world." It should refer to Soviet military and economic

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achievements, the World War II alliance with the West, and the Russian cultural heritage, and recognize the "legitimacy" of Russian security interest in Europe. Along with British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, Rostow thought that there should be a major diplomatic conference, preferably involving the four major heads of state. When the Department of State strongly opposed holding a conference, the idea was dropped.⁴⁸ (U)

Another drafter, Paul Nitze, head of State's Policy Planning Staff and briefly a holdover from the Truman administration, urged that the speech not imply that liberation of the satellites was "a necessary precondition for achievement of other advances toward a peaceful world, while describing it as a necessity for a general and lasting settlement."⁴⁹ On the other hand, Deputy Secretary of Defense Roger Kyes wanted the speech to make the "lifting" of the Iron Curtain "a sine qua non for peace." Eisenhower inclined to Nitze's view. A few days before the address, the President told speechwriter Emmet Hughes that he wanted to add a short paragraph, saying "we know a lot of these things will take years—I mean obviously we aren't going to liberate East Europe tomorrow, my god that's a job for ten years—but what we want, what we want first and above all, it's simply this—some ACTS, ANY acts that show a desire to be nice boys."⁵⁰ (U)

In the speech Eisenhower held out hope for a "broader European community conducive to the free movement of persons, of trade, and of ideas" which, along with "the full independence of the East European nations could mean the end of the present unnatural division of Europe." He posed a key question for the Soviet leadership: "Is it prepared to allow other nations, including those of Eastern Europe, the free choice of their own forms of government?"⁵¹ (U)

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Whatever olive branch Eisenhower himself may have intended to hold out was pulled back shortly thereafter by Dulles in his own address to the same gathering, which played down the possibilities of an East-West accommodation. This may have been what U.S. Ambassador to Great Britain Winthrop Aldrich had in mind when he complained a few weeks later that he did not have "the vaguest idea what American policy is because every time Eisenhower sets it out in a speech, Dulles makes another speech modifying it."⁵² (U)

Some scholars have dismissed Eisenhower's speech as primarily a propaganda gesture to keep Stalin's successors off balance. Certainly, there was this element in the PSB's intentions. According to an ambitious PSB plan, the United States during the first few weeks after the speech was to identify the issues it felt most important and place the onus on the Soviet Union for failing to accept U.S. offers to resolve them. This initial period would be followed by a series of steps "to make the Kremlin assume maximum liability" if it did not accept the President's proposals. During this phase, measures would "be taken to generate the seeds of disunity and to probe for vulnerabilities in the Soviet system." If events proved very favorable, these steps might lead to a third phase: "*Climax* in which the communist system would break into open internal conflict."⁵³ (U)

Despite Republican rhetoric during the election campaign about the satellites' throwing off their communist yokes and the PSB's enthusiasm, few within the U.S. Government believed that major disturbances could break out. CIA Director Dulles told a gathering of correspondents in April 1953 that "you don't have civil uprisings in a modern totalitarian state, as you did in France; you don't revolt in the face of tanks,

artillery and tear gas. Revolutions are now at the top, with the army going to one side or the other."⁵⁴ (U)

Dulles's pessimism reflected a view the CIA had formally adopted. With the Polish experience fresh in mind, it concluded that the chances of mounting successful resistance operations in Eastern Europe had grown slim. "Defensive and provocative measures taken by Soviet and satellite security services are continually improving in scope and quality," the agency reported to the President's Committee on International Information Activities. Moreover, the "capabilities and contacts" of émigré groups in their home countries were "constantly diminishing" to the point where, "with very few exceptions, they can no longer serve independently to maintain the will to resist in the countries concerned or to procure intelligence." Nearly all their claims had proven empty. Instead of trying to stir popular resistance, the agency planned to concentrate on governmental and communist party leadership: OSD 1.4(c)

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As might be expected, some émigré employees at Radio Free Europe disagreed. Although the station began in 1952 to moderate the strident tone of its broadcasts, a reversion to form took place in the period after Stalin's death. An "ultraliberationist" approach briefly surfaced, "in which every trick in the psychological warrior's bag would be utilized to press developments behind the Iron Curtain toward their ultimate denouement." This thinking, reflected in the [REDACTED] RFE broadcasters

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regarding "The Chance for Peace" speech, emphasized that it marked "the end of the American policy of containment" and "the beginning of the Eisenhower policy of liberation." Listeners were to be told that liberation, previously only an aspiration, was now "a major article of policy and a condition of any future peace."⁵⁶ (U)

The administration now turned its attention to finding a way to utilize for military purposes the manpower represented by the thousands of displaced persons in Europe. The idea, also behind the Kersten amendment, was nothing new. Senator Henry Cabot Lodge (R, Mass.) sponsored a bill in 1950 providing for alien enlistment in the U.S. Army, but the response had been disappointing. The Army also had created labor service organizations composed of German nationals and East Europeans to perform non-combat duties and thus relieve regular service personnel of these responsibilities. U.S. military authorities were generally cool to the notion of forming such personnel into combat units, primarily because of concern about the poor quality of potential recruits. When Lodge, whom Eisenhower appointed Ambassador to the United Nations, managed to obtain the President's backing in the spring of 1953 for establishing a Volunteer Freedom Corps (VFC), support for the concept surged but waned when the West German Government raised objections and Eisenhower lost interest. For the next few years the VFC remained under consideration, but despite backing from Lodge and Jackson, by 1955 it had effectively been abandoned.⁵⁷ (U)

Another potential source of East European manpower for possible use in wartime or other emergencies were demobilized Polish veterans in Western Europe that could be activated as volunteers. General Władysław Anders, a World War II hero and member of the Polish Government-in-Exile in London, claimed the support of nearly 100,000 such

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veterans. Anders began in 1952 [REDACTED] more to support his organization's publication and community activities and for his value as a symbol than his men's steadily diminishing fighting ability, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] At one point in 1955, Defense's General Erskine, [REDACTED] admitted that he could not take seriously Anders's claim that people in Poland looked incessantly to the exiled government for leadership in their struggle against Soviet domination. "I often feel," Erskine remarked, "that émigrés who have been out of their countries and have avoided the hardships imposed upon their compatriots are not truly material for revolutionary leadership."⁵⁸ [REDACTED] OSD 1.4(c) CIA 1.4(c)

In the spring of 1953 the United States had virtually no assets inside the satellites, save for East Germany, or outside—short of the direct employment of U.S. forces—to assist and sustain any outbreak of violence. But in spite of setbacks elsewhere, at least the Albania project was still alive. It had received a boost when the PSB in November 1952 recommended that a plan be prepared to detach the country from the Soviet bloc, thus resurrecting the final phase of the original Anglo-American scheme. Without identifying the source, it noted that a "preliminary estimate" had concluded that Albanian personnel could accomplish the task without overt involvement of Western military forces.⁵⁹

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Turmoil in Czechoslovakia and East Germany

Perhaps RFE broadcasts contributed to the turmoil developing in Eastern Europe in the spring of 1953. But localized strikes and disturbances, such as the short-lived food

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rioting that broke out in Bulgaria in May, had their own roots and were not uncommon in the region. Nor was it surprising that Czechoslovakia became the first satellite to experience major unrest. The only one that had enjoyed a prewar democratic government, it was also the last taken over by the communists. Moreover, the people were generally westward-looking. Geography played a part. The industrial city of Plzeň, for example, was farther west than any major satellite city except those in East Germany. (U)

Ironically, what provoked the trouble was the Czechoslovak Government's announcement on 31 May of a currency reform that would have wiped out savings accounts, exactly what RFE had rumored would happen the previous year. The next day workers at the Škoda manufacturing plant in Plzeň, protesting the announced reform, staged a demonstration that led to rioting and the sacking of government buildings.⁶² (U)

At most, the U.S. role in the events was indirect--the result of recent history. In the spring of 1945 American troops liberated the Plzeň area, while the Red Army freed the rest of Czechoslovakia. By the end of 1946 both U.S. and Soviet forces had left the country, but in Plzeň memory of the American presence was still strong. During the demonstration striking workers carried a banner proclaiming that "the boys from the USA will come back again." Others paraded behind youths carrying Czechoslovak and American flags. The turmoil ended the following day with the arrival from Prague of special security forces, imposition of a curfew and martial law, and the arrest of 2,000 people. Dozens were injured, but there were no fatalities. The U.S. Embassy in Prague apparently did not learn of what had taken place until several days later.⁶³ [REDACTED]

As discontent over currency reform spread to other regions, including Prague, the government finally admitted in a radio broadcast that the reform had been "met with open

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resistance and condemnation." Although the public reaction in Prague was the most violent the Embassy had seen in two years, it believed no open outbreaks would occur without effective leadership or "dramatic assurances of assistance from the non-Communist world."⁶⁴ (U)

On the heels of the Czechoslovak turmoil, a more serious outbreak of violence took place right under American noses in Berlin that spread to hundreds of cities and towns in East Germany. It started with a strike on 16 June by East Berlin construction workers protesting an increase in work norms announced in late May, followed by a massive rally the next day that turned into violence and which was eventually put down by Soviet troops when local police proved not up to the task. (U)

The U.S. role prior to and during the uprising was substantial, but—despite an abundant literature—certain aspects remain obscure.⁶⁵ Two sharply different views have emerged. Then, and for years afterward, East German and other communist sources charged that Western agents, particularly Americans, instigated and helped spread the unrest in accordance with a long-planned X-Day operation. Allen Dulles allegedly came to Berlin to oversee it, a charge without foundation, although the press did report the arrival in the city on 12 June of Eleanor Dulles, a German specialist at the State Department and Allen's and Foster's sister.⁶⁶ (U)

The United States had no X-Day plan. Like all other interested parties—Soviet, East and West German Governments, British, and French, it was surprised by the outbreak of unrest. West Berlin Mayor Ernst Reuter and both the U.S. and British High Commissioners for Germany were out of the country; Jackson was in Cleveland, Ohio, not Washington. Under the circumstances, it is highly unlikely that plans for an uprising,

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if they had existed, would have been carried out at this time. Communist allegations were nothing new. For years they had been talking about the plan and had fixed 1948 as the date of origin with Allen Dulles as the mastermind.⁶⁷ Like frequent attacks against the Kersten amendment, propaganda about an X-Day plan not only emphasized the U.S. Government's sinister, aggressive designs, but also suggested that its capabilities for action were greater than they actually were. (U)

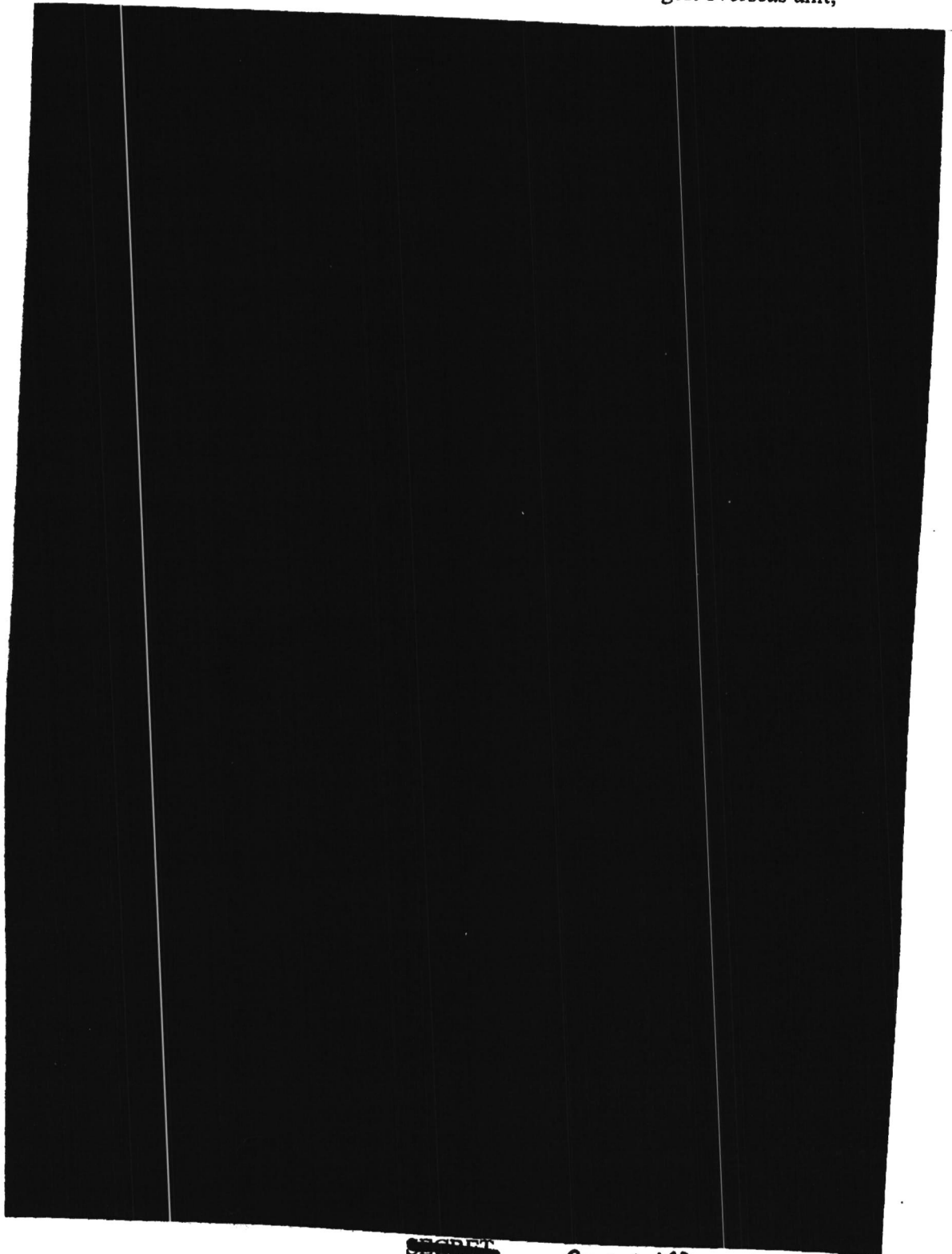
Blaming outside instigation, a reflexive response of communist regimes to domestic disorder during the Cold War, was understandable. So too was the opposing Western view that the uprising was entirely spontaneous, that it grew out of widespread disgust with the regime, and that no external incitement was involved. As Secretary Dulles remarked to Frank Wisner a year later, "the less we put our label" on the East German uprising, "the better it is." He added that "outbreaks are wonderful if they appear spontaneous."⁶⁸ But the truth regarding the East German events is probably closer to the Communist view than many Western accounts have acknowledged. (U)

There can be no doubt about U.S. intentions. While avoiding incitement to open insurrection, the United States sought to promote in East Germany the kind of labor unrest that in fact developed in 1953. According to a PSB paper the previous fall, the object was to stiffen popular "resistance to Soviet-Communist rule and thus (a) weaken the political, economic, and military system in the Soviet Zone; and (b) to lay the groundwork for eventual incorporation in the free Western community." This would be accomplished "by conducting in a non-attributable manner psychological, political, and economic harassment activities in the Soviet Zone, and to prepare, under controlled conditions, for such active forms of resistance as may later be authorized."⁶⁹ (U)

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The CIA's Berlin Operations Base (BOB), one of its largest overseas unit,



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The popular West Berlin station, Radio in the American Sector (RIAS), furnished the United States an additional instrument for both disseminating propaganda and collecting intelligence. Not only did it provide air time to several West German organizations, including the Combat Group and the League of Free Jurists, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

CIA 1.4(c) OSD 1.4(c)

What set RIAS broadcasts apart from those of other stations, including the BBC and Radio Free Europe, was that it regularly and openly urged listeners to take specific actions. For example, when collective contracts were introduced in Soviet zone industrial plants, the station hammered away at the difficulties they posed for workers and learned from East Zone visitors that workers in a particular factory had successfully petitioned to improve their working conditions. As the station's deputy director, Gordon Ewing, explained,

If you reported that in one plant, the actions of those men were going to be imitated in other plants and then sure enough, men would come in from other plants and say, aha, we've done it too. You could start the ball rolling. It was absolutely fascinating to observe the power of broadcasting in these special circumstances. By 1953, at the beginning of 1953, the people working full-time on Soviet zone broadcasts began talking in the

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editorial meetings about what they thought was a developing new spirit in the Zone. They began to get a feeling of more resistance.⁷⁴

In the period prior to the uprising, RIAS regularly reported on the growing labor troubles, programming whose objective a journalist described as "slow, patient sabotage." A leading scholar has concluded that its commentary on successful strikes came "close to giving instructions for rebellion."⁷⁵ (U)

The Western argument that the uprising was spontaneous rests in part on the contention that it was a complete surprise.⁷⁶ This is only partly true. The CIA certainly did not harbor much hope that discontent in East Germany and elsewhere following Stalin's death would provoke an uprising. As Director Allen Dulles had done a few months before, its Office of Current Intelligence discounted the signs of unrest and their potential for further development, because they were not "inspired by organized indigenous resistance movements, which no longer are known to exist in any Eastern European Satellite." It thought that the efficient police apparatus in each country would effectively control any manifestations of organized resistance and contain and suppress spontaneous outbreaks of unrest.⁷⁷ (U)

RFE may have been one of the few organizations that understood what was happening. In Czechoslovakia, it said, popular resentment of the currency reform had produced "results far beyond our expectations," leading to demonstrations that anywhere other than a police state "would amount to a potentially revolutionary uprising." It also heralded a 10 June East German Government resolution backtracking on measures designed to Sovietize the economy as "the greatest retreat from communism which has occurred in any Soviet satellite since 1947." The weakness of the satellite governments

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and popular resistance to them seemed "greater than anyone has yet assumed." A program guidance regarding Czechoslovakia said the moment was ripe to increase "passive resistance and by taking all possible steps by which fighters for freedom are capable without jeopardizing the even more active role they may have to play in the future."⁷⁸ (U)

RIAS, too, perceived a changed mood in East Germany after Stalin's death. Staff members responsible for analyzing listener mail noticed that "people were speaking up for the first time." In May the station began accumulating evidence of strikes throughout the Soviet Zone. During the broadcast campaign against the raising of work norms, it received letters describing 16 industrial sit-down strikes. On the evening of 15 June the station reported three isolated demonstrations that day in East Berlin against the new norms, a story that other news services, doubting its authenticity, did not carry.⁷⁹ (U)

To what degree was the U.S. Government or the organizations it supported responsible for the decision to launch the strike? An internal report by Soviet officials in Germany charged that the construction workers' strike committee maintained ties with agents of West Berlin organizations who incited them to act. Although an early non-communist study stated unequivocally that "no Western agents tried to influence the construction workers on or before" the day of the strike, later ones have speculated on whether this indeed had happened. A British post-mortem supports this view. The SPD Ost-Buro admitted to British officials that it had met with strike leaders visiting its West Berlin office on the 16th and 17th and discussed action they would take.⁸⁰ This seems, however, the only direct connection beforehand that West German organizations had with the strikers. (U)

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Once the trouble began on 16 June the role of RIAS and the West German organizations is more difficult to assess. Louis Fischer, an American journalist who arrived in Berlin just after the outbreak of the violence, asserted that RIAS "was the general staff and signal corps of the rebellion, encouraging the citizenry to rise, giving them political slogans, telling them 'to exploit the uncertainty and insecurity of the authorities.'" Another account concluded that the station "was perhaps more deeply involved in the events than many observers would have liked." Its broadcasts "served as something of a command post" by transmitting "information about the location of the protesters in Berlin, explaining problems and demands, reporting the results of negotiation, and through its information sources in the GDR, acted as a catalyst for protests in other East German cities." The station came "perilously close to involvement."⁸¹ (U)

Late that afternoon a delegation of striking workers appeared at RIAS and asked to go on the air. Ewing opposed it, not only because their lives would be endangered if they returned to the East but also because their use of the facility would make the station "a participant instead of a reporter." And report it did. It was the first media source to announce that a major strike had taken place. By evening Ewing had decided to devote the entire commentary to the day's events. (U)

A recent study maintained that the station's commentary that evening, rebroadcast throughout the night and into the early morning, aimed "to transform a general strike against work quotas into a revolt against the GDR that focused on achieving major political reforms." It helped make RIAS a partner of the strike movement by "stressing the bond between the station and its listeners and pushing protesters to try and achieve

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greater gains." The commentary closed with the words, "We, dear listeners, would be happy if we could continue to report of further victories in the coming days." In approving the text of the commentary, Ewing acted largely on his own. "It was impossible," he recalled, for a State Department official in Washington "to tell me what to do with RIAS. He couldn't conceivably know enough or have the spirit of it, the feeling for this extraordinary event, and for that matter, neither could a man sitting down in Bonn." He did telephone a friend working in HICOG's political section, Charles Hulick, who advised him that the line should be "sympathetic reporting." The broadcasts were more than reportorial. Hulick, after staying up much of the night listening to them, called Ewing and said, "My god, Gordon, watch your step. You can start a war with that station." This may have been around 5 a.m. on the 17th, about the time that Soviet tank units began to move into the city and RIAS issued a call for the people of East Berlin to support the demonstrators. A member of the U.S. mission in Berlin later praised the informal guidance given Ewing by Hulick and another colleague in the mission, James Ruchti.⁸² It is conceivable that Hulick or Ruchti were in telephone contact with Washington. (U)

Another area of uncertainty is how much credit RIAS deserves for spreading word of the trouble to the rest of East Germany. Its broadcasts of 16 and 17 June were reportedly heard as far away as Leipzig, Magdeburg, Erfurt, Dresden, Merseburg, and Halle, leading one journalist to conclude that without them, while Berliners would have still known of the strike because word-of-mouth would have spread the news to the suburbs, the Soviet Zone "would not have learned about it for days, and the national insurrection might never have taken place."⁸³ (U)

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There is good reason, however, to question the extent of RIAS's reception. Because of its growing popularity, East German authorities began during the fall of 1952 a massive jamming of its transmissions. By the following May, according to an internal U.S. Government report, jamming had limited the station's audible range to Berlin and the Brandenburg area around the city. According to one scholar, RIAS's role in the uprising, though important, should not be exaggerated, since "it could not be received in some of the towns that witnessed the greatest upheaval." For example, a strike leader in Bitterfeld said that jamming equipment there was so powerful that "you seldom could hear RIAS." Interviews with refugees in the fall of 1953 revealed that over a two-year period the station had lost about a quarter of its zone listeners because of jamming.⁸⁴ (U)

Did RIAS or any other U.S. organization egg on the demonstrators once the trouble started? There certainly were Americans present in the unruly crowds in the Soviet sector on the 16th, one of them a RIAS staff member whom Ewing sent to learn what was happening. And Eleanor Dulles saw the trouble first-hand. While she was in a meeting on the morning of the 17th, someone rushed in and announced, "The plasterers and other construction workers in white smocks are running into the British sector across the line from East Berlin!" The meeting broke up, and Dulles and the others joined a crowd gathering near the Brandenburg Gate and Potsdamer Platz. Standing on the fringe, she heard people shout, "We want freedom." She then visited the U.S. Mission where she had lunch, while Western Allied military and political officials held a closed meeting. After lunch, accompanied by a friend in the German Red Cross, she went to the sector border. "The crowd was raging," she recalled. "My friend told me not to speak but to carry his briefcase. He was afraid if they knew I was American, they might mob me.

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They came to him shouting, 'Why don't the Amis give us guns? We could take over their guard posts. We could free the city.'"⁸⁵ (U)

On the morning of 17 June U.S. Berlin Element and RIAS despatched staff members all over the city to gather information; some wound up at Potsdamer Platz when the shooting started. Early that morning Ewing asked the same person sent the day before to return to the Soviet sector, where he phoned in reports to the station about the influx of Soviet troops. At one point he found himself in the middle of a demonstration with people throwing rocks and breaking windows. A sudden rainstorm sent him home to change wet clothes, fortunately just before the Soviets closed the border and declared martial law. Communist authorities later identified his car and license plates as having been in East Berlin, which they cited as evidence of the American plans for X-Day.⁸⁶ (U)

No evidence has been found to implicate U.S. personnel working the demonstrations to stir up trouble. A member of the British Military Government's Political Section discounted the more extreme communist statements about Western instigation, although he felt "Western incitement on June 17th may have slightly speeded up the reaction." RIAS broadcasts of the strikers' demands gave the impression that workers should remain on strike until they were met, and he further believed the station's announcement of the demands, along with specifying the time and place of the planned rally, "may have had a perceptible effect in increasing the number of workers who came out the following morning." In general, he considered the programs as tending toward "the sensational." Many featured eyewitness accounts of the rioting, which could only "have served to excite tempers."⁸⁷ (U)

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RIAS came under attack from two sides: from the communists and others for encouraging the uprising and from critics in the United States for being insufficiently anti-communist. Because the United States could not publicly admit that RIAS had helped promote the uprising, the official line emerged that by simply reporting developments the station spread the news of what was happening but did not stimulate action. That spring and summer Senator Joseph McCarthy (R-Wis.) and other members of Congress were attacking overseas information programs as being sympathetic to communism. RIAS received special scrutiny. Ewing, whose German wife had aroused suspicion for visiting the Soviet Union as a young woman during the 1930's, was summoned to Washington by McCarthy in late June, but he refused to come. Such attacks on the station created a dilemma for those who valued its work. Asked by a reporter about McCarthy's charges, an unnamed high official in Bonn, probably Conant, replied, "The management of RIAS will stand on its record as an effective agency against communism, especially at this critical time." The difficulty was to defend the station without suggesting that, contrary to U.S. policy, it had instigated or promoted the uprising. Shepard Stone of the Ford Foundation and former High Commissioner John McCloy defended RIAS and its employees. McCloy told Secretary of State Dulles that the station was "partly responsible for the East German uprising" and that he did not "want to see McCarthy blunt their best weapon." Apparently because of McCloy's intervention and probably that of others, the State Department approached McCarthy, who agreed to drop his summons of Ewing.⁸⁸ (U)

Also difficult to assess are the roles played by American military, political, and intelligence personnel in Berlin. Their general response was restraint, but with

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exceptions. Cecil Lyon, the top U.S. civilian official in the city who also served as Deputy U.S. Commandant, recalled that "we were terrified that the whole thing might blow up. Our one worry was to prevent West Berliners from charging over to help their colleagues on the other side. Because then the Russian troops would have fired on them. We would have had to send our troops to protect them" More succinctly, another American official characterized the response by the three Western commandants, all of whom were relatively new on the job, as "Got to be careful that we don't have a revolt spilling over into our part of the city."⁸⁹ The commandants apparently gave little or no thought to providing arms to the demonstrators or assisting them in any way. (U)

The United States had prepared contingency plans to deal with possible Soviet harassing measures restricting access to the city, perhaps even a reinstitution of a complete blockade as had occurred in 1948.⁹⁰ But Berlin Command had done no planning for a huge public disturbance in the Soviet sector. Not until 10 a.m. on the 17th, well after Soviet troops entered the city and the massive rally began, did its G-2 Section realize that a revolt was taking place and decide to set itself up in the Command's operations room to support Commandant Maj. Gen. Thomas Timberman.* Military officials were not the only ones surprised by the magnitude of the unrest. Conant recalled, "We were all caught unawares, without any plans, for which all of us got sufficient blame." Lyon nevertheless

* Timberman became commandant in January 1953. A Chinese language specialist, he had served in the China theater during World War II. One of his staff in Germany described him as 'extremely shrewd and a very good negotiator,' while he struck journalist Sulzberger as "a very affable guy" who 'seems to spend much of his time socially.' (Diary entry, 23 Aug 53, Sulzberger, *Long Row of Candles*, 893-94) (U) French Commandant General Pierre Manceux-Demian had also assumed his position in January

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took umbrage at a journalist's contention that he and Timberman "didn't know this thing was going to happen, and when it did happen, they didn't know what to do."⁹¹ (U)

British and French military authorities viewed developments quite differently than the Americans. According to a U.S. member of the Kommandatura staff, some Western officials were upset because the Germans had taken up arms "against an allied power." The British "were worried stiff that the occupation forces might be attacked and they might have to take action." Generally, they thought the Americans were too sympathetic to the rioters and insufficiently so to the Soviets. The British High Commissioner in effect told Conant, "You Americans are playing much too favorably to the people who are revolting over there. How do you know the West Germans won't turn around and start throwing rocks at you?"⁹² (U)

Timberman and his British and French counterparts met at 11 a.m. on the 17th and again late that afternoon.⁹³ At the morning meeting they agreed that since their mission was to preserve order, they should try to dissuade any West Berliners or East Zone residents transiting the western sectors from taking part in the demonstrations. They also disapproved of the sites near the Soviet sector border where West Berliners intended to hold sympathy demonstrations later that afternoon.⁹⁴ Timberman, who had under his command around 6,000 troops--mostly Army constabulary, ordered their confinement to quarters at 5 p.m.⁹⁵ (U)

The Commandants undoubtedly had been in telephone contact with their superiors, probably beginning late in the day on the 16th, but no record or even reference

1953. Major-General Charles F. C. Coleman became the British Commandant in October

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to their conversations has been found. Only a few references exist to telephone traffic between political officials in the city and Washington. Ewing recalled that on the 17th Berlin Element reported by cable and telephone to Washington "like mad." British Prime Minister Churchill also directed the Foreign Office to stay in touch with Berlin by telephone and provide him periodic reports on the situation.⁹⁶ (U) CIA 1.4(c)

OSD 1.4(c)

What did the West German groups [REDACTED] do during the uprising?

Here the British again provided an informed, mildly critical perspective. They learned that the Combat Group on three occasions had sent up balloons with pamphlets. Twice on the 17th the British also spotted a van probably belonging to the SPD at a sector border broadcasting appeals to East Berlin police to defect, and on the following morning the SPD launched its own leaflet balloons. In language similar to that used by the communists, the British concluded that incitement by West Berliners had the greatest effect along the sector boundaries "where there was appreciable mingling of crowds between East and West and provocation from Western hooligans and political parties." The mingling "may have had some wider effect in encouraging the demonstrators to believe they had Western support." Twice on the afternoon of the 17th British Commandant General Coleman had to admonish the West Berlin police chief to stop the acts of incitement. That evening Coleman issued an order specifically forbidding the Combat Group from further balloon launchings in the British sector. In the end, he concluded: "Though general encouragement from the West may have contributed to the scale of the demonstration on June 17 and incitement by West German agencies

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doubtless aggravated the situation on the sector borders, I am satisfied that it was not in any way responsible for the outbreak of disorders." A U.S. intelligence estimate characterized the outbreak of open resistance on 16-17 June as "largely spontaneous."⁹⁷

(U)

Because the French High Commissioner in Bonn also believed the disturbances were at least in part incited by West Berliners, the U.S. High Commissioner's Office went to considerable lengths in discussions with British and French colleagues "to disclaim any direct action by German propaganda groups" in which the Americans were "covertly interested." The British Deputy High Commissioner, like General Coleman, saw no evidence to suggest that Western incitement was more than "a secondary cause" of the disturbances after they had already started. A subsequent visit to Berlin confirmed his view that incitements from across the sector boundary "were sporadic and small-scale, due to excess of zeal by professional propagandists." He was convinced that British authorities, and probably also the French, were doing everything possible to avoid any pretext for communist charges of Western incitement. But he was "not so happy about the American sector, where the propagandists do not always seem under control."⁹⁸ (U)

A dispute has arisen about recommendations the BOB made during the crisis. According to the head of the CIA's Eastern European Division, John Bross, the BOB chief cabled Washington asking permission to distribute pistols and Sten guns to the rioters. Bross contacted Wisner, who said, "Give support and offer asylum. But don't issue guns." Wisner felt that since the Red Army had 22 divisions in East Germany, "it would amount to murder." Allen Dulles never forgave Bross for not taking a more aggressive position. Jackson, also upset at the failure to supply the rebels with arms, told

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Bross that it did not matter whether people were killed as a result, since "the blood of martyrs" would help discredit the Soviet system."⁹⁹ (U)

A BOB officer had a somewhat different recollection. According to him, the message to Washington did not concern providing arms. Instead, it urged that the United States "make some plausible military gesture that would give the Soviets pause to think before the Red Army clanked further over the hapless East Germans." It "suggested symbolic mobilization of the Sixth Infantry Regiment," Timberman's token garrison force in Berlin, and putting U.S. forces in West Germany, particularly the 82d Airborne Division, on combat alert and moving them close to the Iron Curtain. The message argued that "the East Germans would not have risen against their oppressors without open and covert U.S. support." "The United States should," it said, "stand up to its responsibilities, even if it meant risking a showdown with the Russians."¹⁰⁰ No message supporting either version has been found. (U)

In the end, the U.S. High Commissioner's office provided a succinct, balanced description of the U.S. role:

The East Germans were enabled and encouraged to exploit the momentary period of Soviet-SED weakness due to the presence of the Western Allies and their controlled German agencies in West Berlin. These combined forces had succeeded in keeping a spirit of resistance in the past. When the first signs of open resistance became apparent on June 16, these same forces were instrumental in nourishing and expanding sporadic, unorganized demonstrations into a more organized and sustained public demonstration of defiance, throughout East Berlin and the Zone.¹⁰¹ (U)

Washington's Belated Response

However inadequate the Truman administration's contingency plan for dealing with Stalin's death might have been, it at least anticipated his demise. For the outbreak of

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widespread violence behind the Iron Curtain, like the East German uprising, nowhere in the U.S. Government had any planning been done. The basic reason was that Washington, as Allen Dulles had confidently said in April, did not consider such an occurrence possible. (U)

The cautious, tardy response was much as it had been to Stalin's death. By the time Washington digested what was happening, it was all but over. A six-hour time difference helped events outrun the policymakers' ability to react. At a mid-morning press conference on the 17th at about the same time Soviet forces were effectively mopping up in Berlin, Eisenhower called the uprising "a significant thing" but claimed ignorance because "my dispatches are a little behind the papers this morning." The British Embassy in Washington reported that other U.S. comment, official as well as informal, was "equally cautious."¹⁰² (U)

In telephone conversations that morning with officials in Berlin and Bonn, State's Office of German Affairs confirmed the accuracy of press reports regarding the previous day's demonstration. Its briefing paper noted that the Western Commandants had "taken every possible precaution to prevent sympathy demonstrations in West Berlin from violating the Sector boundaries and thereby creating a dangerous situation." Media were being "instructed to report the demonstrations factually and as fully as possible." They were to emphasize their spontaneous nature and the Commandants' efforts to keep them "from taking on dangerous proportions." For the time being State did not intend to seek a high-level statement, "because we do not wish to run the risk of identifying ourselves with the demonstrations."¹⁰³ (U)

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After Jackson returned to Washington during the afternoon of the 17th, he set up a working group to start planning for what he termed the "aftermath" of the uprising and the Czechoslovak unrest. The working group's suggestions reflected interest in the uprising's wider ramifications:

We should give all possible moral support to the East Berliners' efforts to improve their conditions, in order to help them achieve actual benefits *or to stimulate further Soviet repression* [author's emphasis], The latter would in turn provide us with ammunition at forthcoming political conferences (Bermuda, Korea, etc.), but care should be taken to avoid neutralist suspicion on the U.S. as instigators of the East Berlin uprisings. It would be psychologically significant at this juncture to capitalize on the Berlin developments in other parts of Eastern Europe, especially where some resistance has shown its head, such as Czechoslovakia, Rumania, etc.¹⁰⁴ (U)

At the regularly scheduled weekly NSC meeting on the morning of 18 June, Allen Dulles asserted that the United States had "absolutely no hand" in inciting the East German riots, which were "evidence of the boundless discontent and dissension behind the Iron Curtain." Jackson observed that events had moved past the riot stage and were close to insurrection. The problem was "whether to abet the development. It was perfectly possible to fan the flames of discontent, but if we did so we could be sure that heads would roll." Eisenhower agreed, adding that "the heads would be those of our friends." A decision to intervene would depend "on how widespread the uprising became." If disorder spread to China or the Soviet Union, "we would probably never have a better chance to act, and we would be well advised, for example, to supply arms." Eisenhower thought that if providing arms to the East Germans "was just inviting a slaughter of these people, you certainly didn't supply the arms." Jackson did not let the matter drop. Should the United States, he asked, help make the turmoil more serious and widespread?

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Eisenhower replied it was not quite time to do so. It would first have to spread to China. While the Soviet Union would have no difficulty in crushing uprisings in Europe, it would find it difficult to contend with unrest there and in the Far East. The President directed the PSB to prepare an operational plan to exploit the unsettled situation and indicated he would convene a special NSC meeting, if necessary, to consider it. Jackson felt he had made the case as strongly as possible that the recent disturbances "might be the start of something."¹⁰⁵ (U)

The plan (PSB D-45), not completed in draft until 22 June, magnified the scope of unrest, citing not only East Germany and Czechoslovakia, but also signs of trouble in Romania, Albania, and Hungary. It saw "little likelihood that the spirit of resistance in Eastern Germany will abate" and stated that "popular resentment in all the European satellites is near the boiling point." The situation presented "the greatest opportunity for effective U.S. psychological operations to help roll back Soviet power that has yet come to light." Jackson called the draft a huge "waste basket," because "we put everything anybody could think of into it." When he went over it orally with the NSC Planning Board, however, it was unimpressed. He recorded his distress over its "apathy or lack of appreciation of unfolding opportunity."¹⁰⁶ (U)

When Jackson presented to the NSC on 25 June a summary list of recommendations drawn from the draft, which he thought met with "considerable enthusiasm," he explained that the PSB had tried to avoid approaching the question "in a starry-eyed and unrealistic fashion." One of the few criticisms, a remark by Secretary Dulles with which Eisenhower agreed, suggested that the list give more emphasis to

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"passive, as opposed to active resistance." With this change and revision of another paragraph, the NSC adopted and the President approved the list.¹⁰⁷ (U)

An unabashed call for action, the draft plan's objectives were to (1) nourish resistance to communist rule "without compromising its spontaneous nature," (2) undermine satellite governments' authority, and (3) exploit unrest as "proof that the Soviet Empire is beginning to crumble." Short-term measures included (1) "covertly" stimulating "acts and attitudes of resistance short of mass rebellion;" (2) establishing, "where feasible, secure resistance nuclei capable of further large-scale expansion;" and (3) encouraging "elimination of key puppet officials." Some long-term measures, which the plan noted would require considerable preparation and depend on developments, were in fact unrealistic--Jackson's disclaimer notwithstanding. Among those with no likelihood of implementation were the organizing, training, and equipping of "underground organizations capable of launching large-scale raids or sustained warfare when directed" and the promoting of "cooperation between satellite resistance elements and nationalists in non-Russian, Soviet Republics."¹⁰⁸ (U)

Impatience was partly responsible for the PSB recommendations. Pointing to disturbances in Bulgaria, signs of unrest in the Baltic, and the East German uprising, a staff member argued that "the time is propitious to encourage disaffection and unrest" throughout the satellites and even the non-Russian areas of the Soviet Union. He was not worried that the uprisings might fail: "If we really believe what we say, the people cannot be much worse off than they are already. Some will die; in fact, probably large numbers, but with the MGB [*Ministerstvo Gosudarstvennoy Bezopasnosti*—Soviet Ministry of State Security] operating efficiently, they die in numbers every year anyway. Unless

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someone can project the possibility of a chance that is better than we have at the present time, then this is the moment of execution."¹⁰⁹ (U)

By contrast, high-level public comments were restrained. Except for the President's brief remarks on the 17th, they were also late in coming. Two weeks after the trouble started, Eisenhower and Dulles expressed admiration for those Germans who had taken action but rejected the idea of U.S. intervention. Dulles essentially repeated what he had said during the election campaign. He had long believed that the Soviet Union was overextended and that the satellites would eventually regain their independence, "particularly if the free peoples kept alive the hope of the captives and showed them that they were not forgotten."¹¹⁰ (U)

Eisenhower was somewhat ambivalent. When asked at a press conference whether opportunities existed for taking concrete action to liberate the satellites, he at first responded negatively and unequivocally: "I do not believe that there is any thought of taking any physical action of any kind that could be classed as intervention." However, he backed off by declaring, with the circumlocution he often employed on such occasions, that official public comment "should be directed towards showing what is the meaning of that kind of thing under these situations, and to try to show people that are suffering like that they do have friends in the world and people that are standing by to help so far as is possible."¹¹¹ He did not indicate what kind of help this might be. (U)

That the administration was learning the difficulty of responding quickly and decisively to developments in the Soviet bloc was apparent only to some. One of Secretary Dulles's aides suggested to White House speechwriter Emmet Hughes that the President in his public addresses should remind people how the administration's

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"dynamic foreign policy" had achieved results and had even contributed to the arrest in late June of Soviet spy chief Lavrenti Beria. Hughes's reaction: "Such pap. We have been confronted with matchless opportunity—Stalin's death, the messy triumvirate, the Germans' revolt, now Beria's fall—and the sober truth is that we have no idea what to do with these opportunities."¹¹² (U)

What If It Happened Again?

For the next several months the possibility of another outbreak and how to respond preoccupied Washington officials. (U)

East Germany remained a likely place. Before returning home, Eleanor Dulles, again accompanied by her German Red Cross friend, visited a refugee camp sheltering many of the demonstrators. "We walked through the camp (I was assumed to be German) and talked with various groups of men. Each time we stopped to ask questions, a large group gathered around and closed in on us arguing among themselves and speaking vehemently about the events." Some of the men "could not wait to get back to the east sector to show the Communists what they could do to them." Several spoke of the need for Allied support: "If the Americans do not help us now they had better go home." Others said, "What are the British and French thinking if they don't help us."¹¹³ (U)

The State Department, noting that recent unrest had created the impression among some in Washington that Soviet control of the satellites might be starting to crumble, asked the embassies in Prague, Warsaw, Budapest, and Bucharest "whether chronic popular discontent with regimes has recently shown tendency to take overt and bolder form and, if so, how, when and where." But each post reported no sign of growing unrest or that regime controls were weakening.¹¹⁴ (U)

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Those who favored a more aggressive policy, like Jackson, found few sympathetic listeners. At a Cabinet meeting on 10 July, Allen Dulles stated that Beria's fall was almost as serious a blow to the Soviet Union as Stalin's death. Jackson then made a plea for action, contending that Beria's disappearance would send shock waves through secret police ranks throughout the satellites. "If we really step in," he said, "we could have passive resistance on a grand scale." Yet his comments elicited no reaction, and the discussion turned to domestic issues.¹¹⁵ (U)

In the wake of the East German uprising, the United States successfully carried out a massive program in West Berlin, for both humanitarian and propaganda reasons, to supply food to East Berliners willing to cross the sector boundary to receive it.¹¹⁶ And it undertook a sharply focused initiative to heighten unrest elsewhere in Eastern Europe. In mid-July Radio Free Europe and Free Europe Press combined on a crash project, code-named Prospero, to launch more than 6,000 balloons carrying 10 million leaflets and other items into Czechoslovakia. The targets were industrial and mining districts in northwest Bohemia, the Ostrava region, and the areas around Prague and Plzeň. On one side of the leaflets were photographs of the East Berlin riots, on the other a text recounting those events as well as the purge of Beria. The text stressed the growing strength of popular resistance in Czechoslovakia, the weakening grip of the government, and the extent of outside support: "We want you to know that you are not alone: Among the masses of people behind the Iron Curtain the fire of revolt is smouldering and its sparks are flying from country to country. Everywhere in the free world your friends are with you. Their help will grow as your determination grows." The message provoked

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controversy within RFE. One director complained about the stupidity of giving such advice; another threatened to resign when it was proposed.¹¹⁷ (U)

It also caused concern at the CIA. Tracy Barnes [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] thought that while a "Philadelphia lawyer" might not technically construe the message as advocating revolt, most people--particularly those behind the Iron Curtain--would. They would also infer that active support would be provided. What Barnes urged was a clarification of U.S. policy:

This type of program is fine if we really mean it. It is my impression however that if a revolt occurred and help was needed, it is extremely doubtful that it would be forthcoming in any strong military way or even in the form of direct equipment and materiel support. If my conclusion is correct, it seems to me more than probable that within a relatively short time, the advantage which we can rightfully say has fortuitously been given us will disappear and backfire pretty badly. On the other hand if my conclusion as to the support is wrong, the time has certainly come for the ambiguity to be removed from our policy position.

Assuming that active support would not be given, Barnes recommended that RFE's propaganda be softened.¹¹⁸ [REDACTED] OSD 1.4(c) CIA 1.4(c)

Richard Helms, the agency's Chief of Operations, thought that "the fuzzy thinking" behind policy toward the satellites was "caused by a desire at top levels of the Government to make good on certain campaign pledges at the expense of hard headed appraisals of the operational problems in terms of the basic facts of life." There seemed "an inclination to raise hob in the satellites and beat up on the Red Chinese, since this would be popular on the domestic political scene, but there is no compensating intention to devote the necessary overt forces and support to insure a favorable outcome to such aggressive cold war approaches." Wisner joined the chorus, saying that Barnes and Helms had raised the same questions he was recently discussing with Dulles, Deputy

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Director for Intelligence Robert Amory, and others, namely: "What is our ultimate objective in stirring up trouble in East Germany and the satellites, and what major or over-riding policy are we working" to support? He stated that "we have a certain responsibility as operators to continue to press for as much clarity in our policy guidance as can be obtained."¹¹⁹ CDA 1.4(c) OSD 1.4(c)

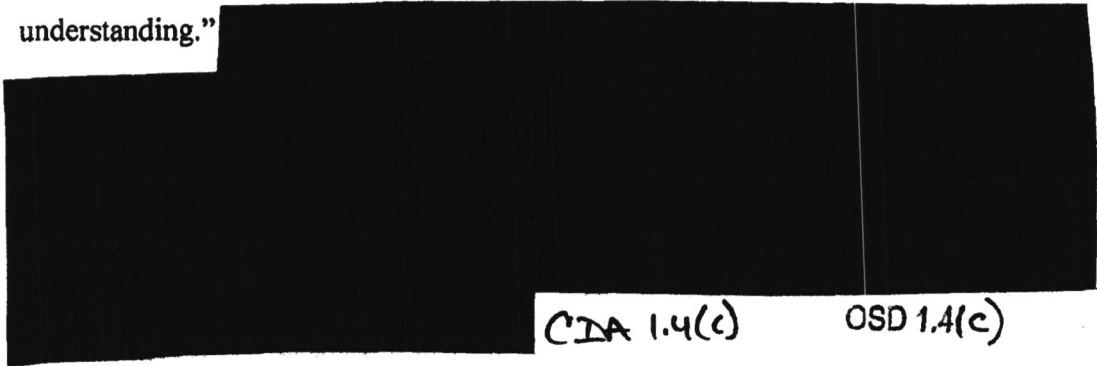
A reluctance to face the issue persisted, even among the diplomats most involved. Though the guidance prepared for the September 1953 meeting in Vienna of U.S. ambassadors and ministers to the Soviet satellites included the question of what the United States "should do if events similar to those of June 17" reoccurred in East Germany or other satellites, the representatives avoided addressing the question. They discussed at length the need for a more cautious policy, one that would avoid incitement to violence and would hopefully prevent a reoccurrence of something like the East German uprising. They agreed that at present there existed no chance for successful uprisings in the Soviet bloc, including East Germany, so the United State should not encourage them. When Conant asked Ambassador to the Soviet Union Charles Bohlen what he thought that country would do if another explosion occurred behind the Iron Curtain, he replied that Moscow would take whatever measures were necessary to deal with it. It would be "a frightful exhibition of Western impotence if the West encouraged an uprising and then did nothing."¹²⁰ ~~(S)~~

In the spring and summer of 1953 the administration conducted re-examinations of overseas information policy and basic national security policy. The first effort, resulting in a lengthy, detailed report in late June by the President's Committee on International Information Activities headed by William Jackson, left one unhappy official

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in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, William Godel, with the impression that U.S. political warfare activities "during the past five years have been characterized by lack of inter-departmental understanding, poor coordination, lack of clear policy and direction, and a record of some rather dismal failures, expensive both in money and international understanding."



CIA 1.4(c)

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A second effort, the Solarium exercise (so named because it grew out of a May discussion Eisenhower had with Secretary Dulles in the White House solarium) established three panels of experts from within and outside the government to defend alternative national strategies. In simplified terms, they were containment, liberation, and a blend of the two. The panels worked in secret for six weeks before presenting their recommendations to the President in an all-day session on 16 July. For Panel C, whose task was to defend the liberation strategy, the objective was "to force the Soviets to shift their efforts to holding what they already have rather than concentrating on gaining control of additional territories and peoples and at the same time to produce a climate of victory encouraging to the free world." Its final report stressed the need for stand-by forces "to support the military in the event of war and to exploit unrest in the absence of war even if we are not now presently capable of building U.S. controlled underground resistance movements in the Satellites." It perceived a widening gap between what was needed in this area and what was available. "When it is fully understood that the stand-by

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apparatus which the military will require on D-Day is the same apparatus required to exploit targets of opportunity such as the recent uprisings in East Germany, the tragic consequences of this gap become readily apparent." The panel recommended a continuation of efforts to hamper Soviet control and to keep alive the aspirations of the satellite peoples for independence without "inciting them to premature and suicidal insurrection," while at the same time building up a covert underground "in preparation for more intensive activity at a later date."¹²² (S)

In the opinion of George Kennan, a member of the panel defending containment, Eisenhower made a brilliant summation of the competing arguments at the concluding session. He spoke "with a mastery of the subject matter and a thoughtfulness and a penetration that were quite remarkable." Kennan left with the conviction that "Eisenhower was a much more intelligent man than he was given credit for being." The President made clear that he had rejected Panel C's defense of liberation. Jackson had the same impression, but noted that Eisenhower's remarks disturbed him because they "virtually threw cold water on all action."¹²³ (U)

As a follow-up to the Solarium exercise, the CIA prepared an estimate in coordination with the rest of the intelligence community "as to whether time was on our side" in the Cold War. The estimate concluded that in one sense time was on the side of the Soviet Union, since it was closing the economic gap with the United States. Moreover, Soviet acquisition of weapons capable of crippling the United States meant the end of American invulnerability to direct attack. However, two factors favored the United States. One was the improving U.S. position as Western defense capabilities around the Soviet periphery continued to increase. The other was the inherent weakness of the Soviet

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empire: "While no collapse within the Soviet bloc can be foreseen, the USSR may lack vitality over the long run. From this point of view time may be on the side of the U.S., but this factor will not show up critically for 10 or 15 years yet."¹²⁴ (U)

Still optimistic about the possibility of stirring revolt in Eastern Europe, Jackson nevertheless recognized the dangers involved. It was wrong, he told an Army War College audience in October, to say that nothing could be accomplished. If the President "were to ask for an uprising in a satellite country he could have it fairly soon. . . . but then there would be one terrible mess, because it could only work if closely geared into the over-all forward movement of this entire government. We just can't be creating little salients anymore."¹²⁵ (U)

He continued to believe discontent rife. "There is a sensing in the intelligence community," Jackson informed Under Secretary Smith in November, "that serious food scarcities are going to affect Soviet control of their satellites during the coming winter. . . . this area promises to be a prime target of opportunity." He wondered whether the June PSB plan took "sufficient account of the various contingencies which might arise" and whether enough attention was being paid to "actions we would take if we were faced with a repetition of the June 17 incidents on a widespread scale, an indigenous general strike call, or food riots. We might even be confronted with a premature mass uprising 'a la Warsaw,' deliberately provoked by the Soviets."¹²⁶ (U)

Operations Coordinating Board (OCB) staff members, who drafted much of the language in Jackson's memo for Smith, also called his attention to unsubstantiated press reports from Berlin and London that between 5,000 and 10,000 "anti-communist East Germans, Czech partisans, and Red army deserters, directed by a unified command, were

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fighting their way to freedom in the West." Jackson apparently did not put much stock in the rumors, for they were not mentioned in his memo to Smith. The omission was wise; the exodus was far less than thought. The group consisted of only five Czechs who had crossed the border seeking contact with Western officials in Germany--three made it successfully. Soviet and East German authorities and their propaganda organs had overreacted, as thousands of troops were employed on a largely fruitless month-long manhunt.¹²⁷ (U)

As memory of the June upheaval faded, fewer people were willing to accept the contention that another violent outbreak was imminent. When Jackson raised the possibility at a January 1955 OCB meeting that riots were almost certain in Berlin during the upcoming Foreign Ministers conference, "everybody nodded their heads," he observed, "but nothing was decided." He told Smith and Allen Dulles that "it would be dreadful negligence on our part if this kind of dramatic development took place and we were totally unprepared." He assured them he was "not suggesting an airlift of 75mm, recoilless rifles, which is what I have been accused of."¹²⁸ (U)

Jackson had left *Time-Life* on a twelve-month leave of absence; his return was pushed back from January until April 1954 to allow him to attend the Berlin conference.¹²⁹ Afterward, he told the President in a sort of farewell message: "If, during 1954, we have the guts and the skill to maintain constant pressure at all points of the Soviet orbit, we will get dividends from such a policy. Furthermore, our pressure can take the form of much bolder harassment than we have yet felt advisable. . . ." Eisenhower asked him to provide specifics, which he spelled out in writing. Several suggestions, focusing on propaganda to the satellites, were conventional. Others, in the form of direct

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action in East Germany, were more daring: (1) infiltrating and organizing factory cells in order to instigate 'a series of flash strikes and demonstrations over an extended period of time,' (2) sabotaging "industrial and agricultural shipments out of the East Zone destined for Russia," and (3) secretly applying "terroristic pressure" against members of the East German regime. He added that "if an Ulbricht* or two didn't show up at the office some morning, few would weep." One can only speculate whether he meant they should be murdered or merely scared away from reporting for work.¹³⁰ (U)

Jackson discussed the proposals with Wisner and Allen Dulles. On 26 March Wisner responded, agreeing with some, such as intensifying certain propaganda efforts, but taking issue with organizing factory cells to foster strikes and demonstrations. Because the Soviets would be able to identify the agitators and inflict reprisals, "we would want to assess the program in terms of net over-all gain, and one of our major considerations, therefore, would be the expense to CIA in terms of the loss of leadership and members.

[REDACTED] The recommendation for terroristic pressure, Wisner felt, "would quite obviously, require a prior decision on the highest level. If this were forthcoming, we could very likely organize and execute such an action. Consideration should be given to whether such action would be significant unless taken as a part of a larger program for armed revolt." Wisner posed the "Number One question thus far unanswered" regarding the stirring of unrest in the satellites: "Suppose that our efforts are

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* Walter Ulbricht, First Secretary of the Socialist Unity Party (*Sozialistische*

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successful and that there comes to pass an outbreak of violence of large proportions and of a magnitude which would pose the kind of challenge to the Russians that would require them to move in on the situation with massive (military) repressive measures. The question is—what would *we* do then?"¹³ [REDACTED]

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Albanian Finale

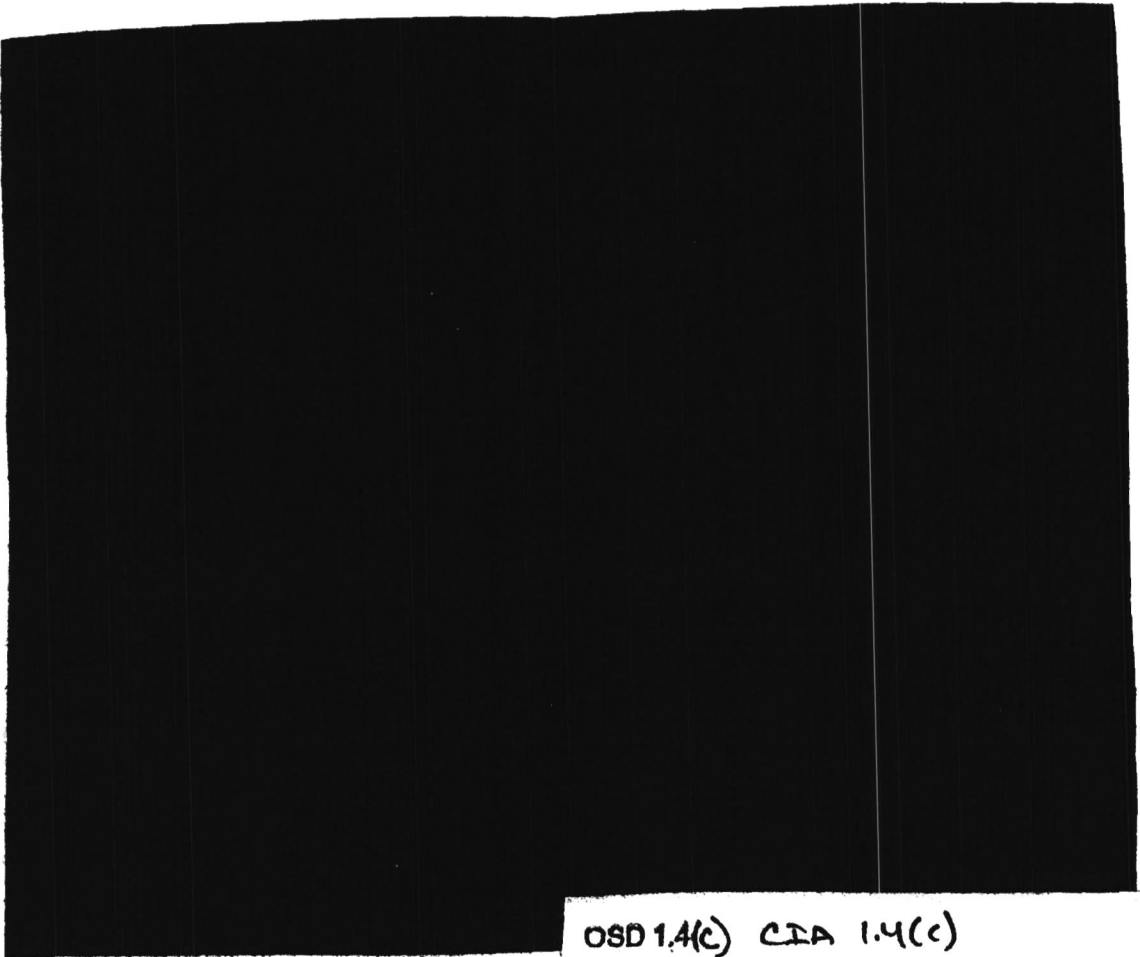
On another issue—Albania, Jackson also weighed in heavily but wound up losing. During the summer of 1953, that country's detachment from the Soviet bloc, an idea put on hold until after the June Italian national election, assumed new life as a result of the troubles in Czechoslovakia and East Germany and the purge of Beria. (U) CIA 1.4(c)



Eienheitspartei Deutschlands or SED).

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It may have been this document or an earlier version that Richard Bissell, a Princeton University professor temporarily working in Washington for the CIA, recalled seeing. He concluded that the plan was "preposterous." Bissell, who some years later would become the chief architect of the Bay of Pigs invasion, felt the United States would not be able to support an Albanian operation at such a great distance, and its size ensured it would not remain secret. "It would have put the Bay of Pigs in the shade," he recalled.¹³⁴ (U)

The NSC immediately took up the CIA paper. Though Jackson tried to speed implementation of the recommendations, Secretary Dulles urged first creating a task force to coordinate action. The PSB decided that the initial step would be consultation

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with the British, then discussions with the Greeks, Yugoslavs, and Italians. On learning of the plan, Eisenhower observed that "Albania was a very difficult case because of the question of who gets it and who gets hurt."¹³⁵ (U)

For different reasons, the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) and the Joint Chiefs of Staff looked coldly on the proposal. William Godel in OSD's Office of Special Operations felt it was "not a plan but an attempt to relieve CIA of pressure to do something, and nothing will come of it" because it was contingent on State's taking too many preliminary actions. "If we wait till State *actually does all* [emphasis in the original] of these things, Albania will remain a Soviet satellite forever." Godel and his office head General Erskine proposed concentrating on Bulgaria instead of Albania.¹³⁶

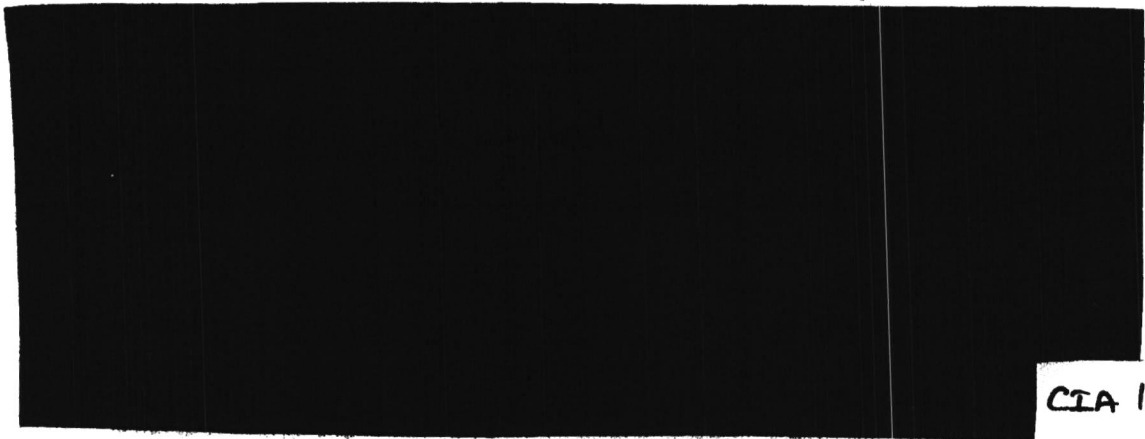
For the Joint Chiefs, the overthrow of Hoxha had lost much of its appeal. A member of the Joint Strategic Survey Committee, the JCS long-range planning body, told CIA representatives that the plan's initial phases almost entirely concerned State and CIA. Although Albania's detachment "would have relatively little strategic value," he agreed that "the psychological impact would be great." Still, an unsuccessful operation "would have most serious psychological and diplomatic repercussions in Western Europe and elsewhere."¹³⁷ The formal JCS response on 3 September was even more negative. The plan "should be discouraged" because "potential gains would not justify the military commitments likely to develop" and favorable trends underway in the Balkans "might be disrupted."¹³⁸ ~~(S)~~

At State, Policy Planning Staff Director Robert Bowie and Raymond Thurston, Deputy Chief of the Office of Eastern European Affairs, also expressed reservations.

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Both agreed that preliminary diplomatic soundings could be made, but Thurston wanted them to focus on "contingency plans" in the event of armed hostilities or to deal with "a totally spontaneous uprising." He was opposed to "concerted action to stimulate such an uprising or bring it to fruition." Thurston stated that the chief regional objective was achieving a "working agreement between Yugoslavia and Italy," meaning a settlement of their dispute over Trieste, and that exacerbating the Albanian problem would only increase tensions between the two countries.¹³⁹ (S)

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This is exactly what happened. On 29 December 1953 Radio Tirana announced that it had captured and would soon publicly try the agents infiltrated by the United States. The announcement did not deter Jackson, before he left government service in the spring of 1954, from continuing to urge that preliminary planning be undertaken to detach Albania from the Soviet bloc "in anticipation of an eventual green light." He accepted the rationale for the delay, namely the still unresolved Trieste dispute. But when he discussed the matter with the President, Under Secretary Smith, and Allen Dulles in March 1954, they reaffirmed the decision to take no action until Trieste was settled.¹⁴¹

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In April 1954 the trial in Tirana and sentencing to death of seven men [REDACTED] sent into Albania effectively ended U.S. thoughts of intervention. Plans were instead made "to take advantage of any sudden favorable developments," including the spontaneous outbreak of revolt. But by the beginning of 1955 the intelligence community concluded that although a few remaining resistance bands, isolated from one another and without much in the way of arms or supplies, might remain active for a while, the security forces would eventually liquidate them.¹⁴² [REDACTED] CIA 1.4(c)

Less Vigorous Stirring (NSC 174) OSD 1.4(c)

Throughout 1953 administration officials were engaged in drafting a new policy paper on Eastern Europe to replace one dating back to 1949. Finally approved in December 1953 as NSC 174, it ruled out use of military force to liberate the satellites either directly or through support of revolutionary movements. U.S. military intervention probably would precipitate general war, would be unacceptable to the American people, and would be condemned by world opinion. The United States should avoid encouraging premature action by anti-Soviet elements "which will bring upon them reprisals involving further terror and suppression. Continuing and careful attention must be given to the fine line, which is not stationary, between exhortations to keep up morale and to maintain passive resistance, and invitations to suicide."¹⁴³ (U)

Tilghman B. (Skip) Koons, an NSC special staff member who worked on the paper, noted a basic conflict that the Solarium exercise had tried to resolve: "If the United States is not willing to intervene by force in the Satellites to support anti-communist uprisings, if it is unwilling to risk general war by such or related actions, and if it feels that the net advantage to the United States of the freeing of the satellites is at best small

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(this has been the conclusion to date), then the best that can be done is to straddle the issue. This means that you do what you can to keep alive hope in eventual freedom without encouraging open revolt." The paper admitted "the impossibility of laying down at this time firm courses of action" for responding to open revolt. "The problem," argued Koons, "has to be kept in mind, however, and the appropriate departments and agencies should be as prepared as possible on a continuous basis with alternative courses of action which might be adopted."¹⁴⁴ (S)

When Eisenhower's Special Assistant for National Security Affairs Robert Cutler briefed the NSC on the paper, he analyzed "the crucial issue of avoiding premature revolt." Director of the Foreign Operations Administration Harold Stassen voiced concern about the the paper's failure to indicate a "course of action or plan which the United States would follow in the event of a successful revolt by one of the countries against its Soviet masters." Both Allen Dulles and Jackson assured him that plans were being made for this contingency.¹⁴⁵ (U)

This was not true. Wisner made a point of researching the question and could find nothing authorizing the CIA to plan for exploiting satellite uprisings or inciting them. The only guidance even touching on the question was an admonition regarding East Germany, which emerged in CIA exchanges with HICOG the previous summer to "keep the pot simmering—but to avoid boiling it over." He also came across an OCB instruction that had been carried out to stockpile explosives and demolition materials in Europe for use if needed. But he emphasized that "we have NO policy guidance governing the infiltration thereof either at the present time or under any specific set of circumstances in the future." Troubled by the "lack of understanding at higher government levels on this general

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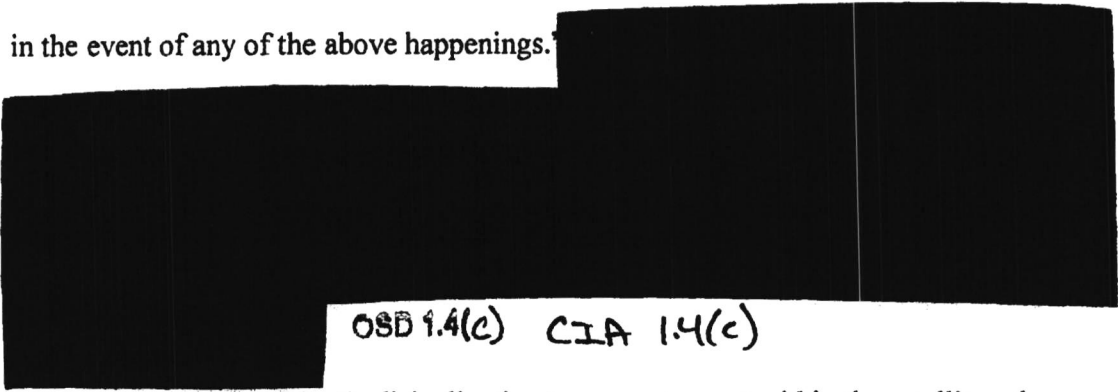
subject," Wisner urged that the CIA either obtain guidance to clarify its responsibilities or disabuse people of the notion that "we are all set to go, or are in the process of developing plans to touch off or support uprisings in the satellites." His own understanding, shared by Helms and Barnes, was that current policy did not call for provoking uprisings, which he felt could succeed only if outside military forces were prepared to march in and actively help the insurgents consolidate and hold their gains. Nor were there "any adequate US forces . . . to move in and give support to an attempted revolt." He continued to believe that the present policy of encouraging resistance to the satellite regimes "in order to keep the pressure on and to retard the consolidation of Soviet controls" was the proper one. But, he said, "it is one of the most difficult, unanswered questions of the day as to what US or Western policy would be in case of an attempted revolt occurring in any of the satellites within the foreseeable future and prior to the withdrawal of Soviet military power from the immediate or adjacent area."¹⁴⁶ (U)

Within the agency, Wisner, Helms, and Barnes were not alone in their concern. Noting that NSC 174 "affords more leeway in stimulating satellite revolt but cautions against the incitement of premature revolt that would sacrifice resistance movements unnecessarily and prohibits U.S. military involvement in support of satellite liberation," John Bross, head of the East European Division, felt that an armed uprising in East Germany would fail because of the presence of the Red Army and the improved repressive capabilities of the regime. "Unless significant quantities of munitions and other support are introduced from the outside on a sustained basis," he said, "and undoubtedly unless U.S. military forces were overtly committed to support an East German revolt, we believe that the resistance elements would be liquidated in a very

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short time." Chances of a successful revolt in Poland, Hungary, or Czechoslovakia, he believed, were "nil." The only possible contingencies he envisioned involved civil resistance, such as "widespread strikes, agricultural non-deliveries, civil disobedience, food riots, or the like." However, he admitted that CIA had "no plans for internal action in the event of any of the above happenings."



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Given the President's disinclination to support unrest within the satellites, the coolness of the State Department and diplomats to the idea, and opposition at the CIA among high officials other than Allen Dulles, Jackson was obviously swimming against a strong tide. While a historian, the first who mined the fascinating output of recommendations and remarks that Jackson made during his roughly year's tenure as White House special assistant, called him "one of the most significant figures in U.S. Cold War history," another scholar's assessment is closer to the mark: "He possessed one of Washington's lowest batting averages, in terms of ideas accepted and put into practice, but he seldom let failure discourage him from swinging away the next time up."¹⁴⁸ (U)

Jackson remained concerned about the lack of planning for a major outbreak of violence in Eastern Europe. No longer in the government, he wrote to Allen Dulles in February 1955 arguing that it was time "to get going" on the Albania operation and activate the Volunteer Freedom Corps as quickly as possible. The latter action would "take care of a certain number of youthful exiles, possible problem children because they

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have nothing to do and no hope," and would "also furnish satellite nationalist cadres for eventual emergencies." He asked, "What are we prepared to do if the tension in the satellites were to reach a critical mass and blow this year?" Jackson was not sure whether the CIA Director knew the answer, but he thought the VFC, if not the complete answer, was 'at least a start.'¹⁴⁹ (U)

Jackson's departure from Washington created a shortage of imaginative ideas for exploiting unrest in Eastern Europe. In August 1954, an OCB working group, describing what should be done during the next six months to be ready "to exploit any future disturbance similar to the East German riots of 1953," came up with only two actions: (1) keep harvest results for the current year under review with an eye to exploiting possible shortages with offers of food or other action, and (2) have the CIA and the United States Information Agency (USIA) analyze the East German uprising and develop "specific courses of action to be taken in the event of a similar occurrence." The agencies were to report their findings by 1 December. The NSC Board Assistants noted that "although the time for a significant rollback of Soviet power may appear to be in the future, the U.S. should be prepared, by feasible current actions or future planning, to take advantage of any earlier opportunity to contract Communist-controlled areas and power." With an Albania operation now off the table, they suggested that the working group examine other possible actions, "particularly a major coordinated action by all agencies designed to detach one of the important Soviet satellites from the Soviet bloc."¹⁵⁰ (U)

The joint CIA-USIA response, submitted in January 1955, was almost entirely negative. The two agencies pointed out that if something like the East German uprising occurred again, "the position which the U.S. Government must take would not differ

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materially from the stand we assumed in 1953." Current policy "severely circumscribed" actions the United States might take. It must not do anything to (1) precipitate hostilities (e.g. armed aid, logistic support, etc), (2) cause a premature uprising and annihilation of dissident elements because of exhortations or unsupportable promises, and (3) alienate allies. If a revolt did occur, the United States would have to confine itself to disseminating information, expressing sympathy, providing moral support, and taking "whatever political steps would be deemed feasible and effective at the time."¹⁵¹ (U)

The Thaw and Khrushchev's Secret Speech

During 1955 statements regarding U.S. policy continued to reflect the changing attitude toward Eastern Europe, what some called an evolutionary rather than revolutionary approach. Instead of encouraging resistance within the Soviet bloc, a new basic national security policy paper (NSC 5501) adopted in early January 1955 called for fostering changes in the character and policies of Soviet bloc governments by "influencing them and their peoples toward the choice of those alternative lines of action which, while in their national interests, do not conflict with the security interests of the U.S." If "resolutely pursued, this general strategy offers the best hope of bringing about at least a prolonged period of armed truce, and ultimately a peaceful resolution of the Soviet bloc-free world conflict and a peaceful and orderly world environment."¹⁵² (U)

The shift in emphasis was reflected in another paper the NSC approved at the end of January (NSC 5505/1) that focused on exploiting the Eastern European region's vulnerabilities. This paper, which included a summary of a report by a committee chaired by Max Milliken of M.I.T.'s Center for International Studies (CENIS), identified two considerations that should govern strategy:

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- a. Barring external military aid and intervention, no anti-regime revolt in the Satellites could succeed at present. The United States is not now prepared to undertake such aid and intervention. Accordingly, although it is in the interest of the U.S. to foster conditions which, in the event of either general war or changed circumstances may be favorable to revolt (or related activities, such as sabotage, partisan movements, etc.), it is not in U.S. interest at the present time to encourage revolution as a major element of its strategy toward the Satellites.
- b. Belief on the part of Satellite and Soviet leadership that the U.S. is implacably dedicated to the overthrow of both Satellite and Soviet regimes may negate the possibility of exerting U.S. influence towards a more acceptable evolution of Satellite or Soviet society.

Planners were urged to keep a variety of contingencies in mind so that assets could be maintained "to exploit crisis situations or general war, so far as this can be done without prejudicing carrying out the above strategy." The new strategy was to govern political warfare operations, "departure from which should be undertaken only for cause and with a clear recognition of possible conflict."¹⁵³ (U)

The statement of policy listed several principles to be applied in exploiting discontent: (1) creating and increasing "popular and bureaucratic pressures" to produce evolutionary change in governmental policies and conduct which would reduce the chance of a Soviet attack on the United States, (2) continuing to oppose the Soviet system and "to state its evils" while stressing evolutionary rather than revolutionary change and providing assurance that the United States did not intend to impose by force its ideas of government on Soviet bloc countries; and (3) generally portraying the causes of discontent "not as inherent conditions reparable only by revolution but as conditions susceptible to correction by the regime if it should choose to take the necessary action." Covert operations would "not necessarily have to conform to these principles, but were to be conducted so as not to impair their effectiveness."¹⁵⁴ (U)

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The new approach stemmed not only from the practical difficulties of conducting operations behind the Iron Curtain, but was also a response to the willingness by the post-Stalin Soviet leadership to negotiate with the West. Two international proceedings in 1955--the conclusion of the Austrian State Treaty in June and the Geneva Summit Conference in July--produced a less confrontational climate which encouraged the United States to soften its stance. (U)

The Austrian State Treaty, requiring withdrawal from the country that fall of all occupying military forces--Soviet as well as Western--and the maintenance of Austrian neutrality, increased the exposure of the satellites to the outside world. This was especially true of Hungary, which acquired a new frontier with the West, and Czechoslovakia, whose borders with the West were extended. The OCB believed this would "increase the ferment and discontent in these two countries." It also expected that a visit by Soviet leaders to Belgrade and a resultant declaration recognizing "the possibility of achieving 'socialism' in diverse ways" would have a significant effect on the satellites. Unless the Soviet Union was prepared to relax control, "increased passive resistance and non-cooperation may follow." Aware that U.S. capabilities remained limited for directly influencing developments, particularly for developing organized resistance, the OCB nevertheless thought "the fluid diplomatic situation" presented the greatest opportunity for furthering the objectives of policy toward Eastern Europe since the adoption of NSC 174 in December 1953.¹⁵⁵ (U)

The Geneva Summit Conference of July 1955, the first gathering of the leaders of the four major powers since 1945, produced agreement among them to work for greater East-West cooperation, including the exchange of people and information and the

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breaking down of economic barriers. Never a fan of summit meetings, Secretary Dulles was especially opposed to this one. According to Bohlen, he "felt the spectacle of the President of the United States shaking hands with the Russians" would have a harmful effect on resistance elements behind the Iron Curtain. Bohlen thought just the opposite, that "the spectacle of the President of the United States and the Soviet leaders sitting down apparently in reasonable amity to discuss things would tend more to weaken the Communist hold" on the satellites.¹⁵⁶ (U)

The question was how much emphasis during the conference the Western powers should place on the satellites' lack of independence. Although the British and the French agreed to having the issue raised, Bohlen believed the Soviets would strongly oppose any formal discussion of it. The NSC issued rigid guidance for the U.S. delegation, stipulating that it maintain and publicly assert that "Soviet control of the satellites is one of the principal causes of world tension and is incompatible both with lasting conditions of peace and with the basic principles of freedom and self-determination." It was instructed to "seek every opportunity to weaken or break the Soviet grip on part or all of the satellite area" and "avoid in all circumstances any action that even appears to indicate any abandonment of this objective." However, Dulles believed they should not insist on making the satellites a matter for negotiation and felt he probably could accomplish more in private conversations than in formal sessions. Bearing out Bohlen's prediction, the Soviets showed little willingness to discuss the satellites. As CIA's Deputy Director for Intelligence Robert Amory later described the Soviet reaction, "the minute you'd touched on their belt, their cordon sanitaire from Poland to Bulgaria, they just froze up; and, almost equally as strong on East Germany." They were intent, he said, on projecting an

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image of strength, that they would not be pushed around, and that "they will not take, lying-down" the liberation of the satellites.¹⁵⁷ (U)

Nevertheless, Dulles came away from the conference in a hopeful frame of mind. Asked at a congressional hearing whether the United States should help the Soviet Union increase its standard of living, he replied that so long as it maintained an empire in Eastern Europe, it was "not good business to help it, because I believe that economic weaknesses and strains are going to be very potent in breaking that grip." If the grip was broken and the Soviet Union returned to "its normal boundaries," he thought it would probably "be better to help and to give their people a higher standard of living and a stake in peace which they do not now have." He did not want to put an exact date on when that contraction would occur, "but the way things are going, I think within 5 years that there is a very good chance that will happen."¹⁵⁸ (U)

To allay fears in the satellite countries that the conference and a follow-up meeting of foreign ministers had meant the United States was losing interest in seeking their independence, Eisenhower and Dulles broadcast over Radio Free Europe a Christmas message to the peoples of Eastern Europe. Soviet First Party Secretary Nikita Khrushchev criticized it as not being in accord with the views expressed in Geneva. The White House responded that it had been "made abundantly clear" at the conference "that the 'spirit of Geneva' could not and did not involve any relaxing of the peaceful purpose of the United States to achieve liberty and justice for the oppressed peoples of the world." The statement concluded: "The peaceful liberation of the captive peoples has been, is, and, until success is achieved, will continue to be a major goal of the United States foreign policy."¹⁵⁹ (U)

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Now made more pronounced by the "spirit of Geneva," the inherent ambivalence in policy toward the satellites continued to cause concern within the U.S. Government. Early in 1956, the OCB again took note of the limited U.S. capabilities for influencing events in the region, "particularly in the development of organized resistance which could basically alter the status of the satellites." The continuation of détente would make it difficult to promote passive resistance and other anti-communist activities. Striving for negotiated settlements and encouraging evolutionary changes were "not always compatible with programs intended to keep alive the hopes and aspirations of the captive peoples." The OCB suggested a re-examination of policy toward the satellites that would provide "some guidance as to the resolution in practice of such incompatible policies." It was not optimistic: "It may be that the United States will have to undertake to follow simultaneously two policies with inconsistent courses of action, representing divergent approaches to the one objective."¹⁶⁰ (U)

The unexpected then occurred. Nikita Khrushchev's secret speech in February 1956 at the 20th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, in which he denounced Stalin for crimes he had committed, created a sensation in the Communist bloc and accelerated the thaw in relations with the West.¹⁶¹ The idea has since gained widespread acceptance that the U.S. Government's obtaining a copy of the speech represented a major achievement. Secretary Dulles called it "the greatest feat by American Intelligence in a number of years." Much later CIA official Ray Cline went further, saying it was one of the agency's "greatest coups of all time."¹⁶² Exactly how it obtained the text is not clear, a cloudiness CIA representatives may have fostered to enhance the aura of the agency's effectiveness. But the accolades do not seem justified.

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The Western powers secured at least four copies of the speech, all seemingly from Poland and all at approximately the same time. The United States acquired two, the British and the French one each.¹⁶³ [REDACTED]

Acquiring a copy in Poland, where they were sold on the black market, was not that difficult. A communist party official in Warsaw recalled that more than 15,000 copies were printed and distributed. He claimed to have given copies to a French correspondent and to two American reporters who, according to him, transmitted them to the West. However, one of the reporters later denied that they received copies. Although the United States tried to persuade the Yugoslav Government to furnish it a copy and journalist Louis Fisher reportedly obtained extracts from a Yugoslav source, all evidence points to Poland as the source of the text the CIA obtained apparently early in May [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The Counselor of the U.S.

Embassy in Warsaw, Willard Barber, also claimed credit for obtaining a copy. He borrowed it from a Polish source and had Army communications staff at the embassy photostat it and transmit the text to Washington. The French probably got theirs from one of their correspondents in Warsaw. On 14 May Bohlen reported that a French colleague in Moscow had shown him a copy of a dispatch from the French Embassy in Warsaw containing what was purported to be a summary of the speech, which the Embassy considered authentic.¹⁶⁴ (U) OSD 1.4(c) CIA 1.4(c)

The key question was what to do with the text. At Allen Dulles's meeting with his deputies on 16 May, Wisner announced that the agency had obtained a copy of the speech. Noting that its authenticity had not been confirmed, he asked what dissemination

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should be made. After discussing the matter further, he gave a copy to a British Embassy official in Washington. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Angleton claimed that Allen Dulles offered a reward for obtaining the speech and that the CIA had it for a few days without telling anyone in order to have its authenticity checked. Shown a copy, Kennan prepared for Wisner a detailed analysis of the document and its probable impact. According to Angleton, Dulles said, "What we do with it will depend on the President and my brother."¹⁶⁶ [REDACTED] CIA 1.4(c) OSD 1.4(c)

Consideration was given to disseminating the speech through the Free Europe Committee, but committee officials were disinclined to do so, in part because it would raise questions as to how it had come into their possession and also because it stood to gain as much from the document's release whoever published it. Cline recalled that he favored making the entire speech public but that Wisner and Angleton objected, wanting instead to feed certain parts of the speech to select audiences to maximize its impact. He stated that Allen Dulles, with his brother's concurrence, did not make the decision until 2 June to release the full text, which the *New York Times* printed two days later. In circulating the published version to overseas posts, the British Foreign Office said it was "believed to emanate from Polish sources."¹⁶⁷ [REDACTED]

Publication of the speech has been credited for helping fan the unrest in Eastern Europe that nearly brought the collapse of Soviet rule that autumn. This claim, too, is largely undeserved, for the shockwaves that Khrushchev's speech sent throughout the region occurred primarily in the spring, well before the text appeared in print in the West.

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In Poland, for example, discussion of the speech already had helped create factions among the ruling elite, emboldened party activists in their criticism of the higher echelons, and encouraged Polish society in general to challenge the basic tenets of the Communist system.¹⁶⁸ (U)

In Hungary the speech was apparently not translated into Hungarian. But the general contents became known and raised hopes that there would follow, if not a clear-cut break with the past, at least a moderating of the government's harsher practices. An address in mid-May by Communist Party leader Matyas Rakosi, in which "he ranted against U.S. imperialism and spoke openly about alleged American support of spies and saboteurs" and which seemed to the U.S. Legation "almost a throwback to the old Stalinist times," disappointed those "harboring even most cautious hopes and has given rise to even greater general discontent and disaffection towards Rakosi." The legation recommended that he be attacked as strongly as possible, because some Hungarian and party officials "would welcome and silently acclaim a diplomatic offensive aimed at Rakosi and his secret police" which they could use in their efforts to bring about reform.¹⁶⁹ (U)

Satellite unrest obviously worried Moscow. At a May Day luncheon in the Kremlin attended by Soviet bloc diplomats, Khrushchev castigated Poland's leaders, who, he said were turning their backs on the Soviet Union, looking to the West, and thinking of leaving the socialist camp. The Yugoslav Ambassador was struck by Khrushchev's reference to the "camp," implying that differences with Poland were an internal Soviet affair, not as though they concerned Moscow's relations with another

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country. It gave him the impression that "the Russians are prepared to use force to keep the 'camp' under their complete control."¹⁷⁰ (U)

Despite the ferment, by early June few Western observers predicted significant challenges to communist governments or violent upheavals in the region. State's Bureau of Intelligence and Research saw the changes occurring as manifestations of flexibility by the governments, which implied "tone and toughness" and reflected "regime self-confidence." The bureau concluded that "under present circumstances the existing system of entrenched Soviet controls appears adequate to offset any unexpected vulnerabilities that such experiments may produce."¹⁷¹ (U)

The CIA's Senior Research Staff on International Communism took a longer view. While the Soviet party congress in February would likely spur the satellites to seek their own roads to socialism, an outside chance existed that communism itself would mellow, not during the next decade, but more likely over a generation or two:

Once freed from the confines of permanent tensions, mental attitudes may develop which could become stronger than Communist faith and discipline. Such a transformation would be slow, at first hardly noticeable, but it might work itself up persistently from the grass roots to the "leading circles." It is impossible to estimate how long such a process would need to become apparent, nor is it possible to foresee its ultimate outcome. Much would depend on the character of future Soviet leadership.¹⁷² (U)

The Spark in Poznań

The United States had good reason to be pleased with the turmoil in the communist world following Khrushchev's speech. In a 21 June address Dulles hammered away at the speech's implications, which he termed "the most damning indictment of despotism ever made by a despot." Reiterating one of his favorite themes, Dulles said, "If we can continue to show freedom as a dynamic liberalizing force, then we need not fear

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the results of the peaceful competition which the Soviet rulers profess to offer. More than that, we can hope that the forces now at work within the Soviet Union and within the captive countries will require that those who rule shall increasingly conform to principles of freedom." This would usher in "a world-wide era of true liberalism," a possibility "now clearly visible for the first time in many years."¹⁷³ (U)

During a closed meeting with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee several days later, Dulles declared the Soviet system in serious trouble with Khrushchev perhaps "on the ropes." If the United States could maintain pressure, "a very great disintegration within the apparatus of the international communist organization" would occur. Once the satellites began to break away, Dulles felt, no one could tell where the process might end. The key thing was "to get cracking in there, and once you get the crack in and you use the leverage, you may open the door a lot further than the fellows think that first permit you to get the crack."¹⁷⁴ (U)

On 27 June Dulles held the State Department's first televised news conference. According to columnist James Reston, he entered the room "full of bounce and confidence" and seemed to gloat over developments in the Soviet bloc: "The Secretary was like a military commander suddenly perceiving a crack in the enemy's line. He identified it with a whoop and ordered a general offensive."¹⁷⁵ His remarks, in fact, were more restrained than they had been before the Senate committee. He noted that a revolt against the Stalinist legacy was taking place in the communist world. For the present the West's main task was "to maintain, support vigorously, and resourcefully adapt to new conditions the basic policies of unity which are now beginning to pay off." Although focusing primarily on the repercussions of Khrushchev's speech on Western communist

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parties, he also referred to the changes taking place in the satellites: "I believe that there is a growing tide within the Soviet bloc in favor of greater liberalization, greater humanity, greater freedom of speech, greater enjoyment of the fruits of labor, and opportunity to think and speak more freely."¹⁷⁶ (U)

According to Reston, Soviet experts in Washington found it difficult to see how Dulles could expect "to deepen and widen the breach in the Communist world by proclaiming publicly that these divisions jeopardize the unity and success of the whole communist movement." Many believed "the deep divisions within the Communist Party are more likely to be encouraged by silence than by jubilant pronouncement in the State Department." Dulles later admitted to the President that his remarks had been hyperbolic. When Eisenhower informed him of a letter the White House had received criticizing his public statements about Khrushchev's difficulties, he replied that it had been "very important from the standpoint of the Mutual Security legislation to portray our past policies as successful and to have some reason such as their success for continuing these policies."¹⁷⁷ (U)

Events moved faster than Dulles anticipated. The very evening of his news conference, officials from the U.S. Embassy in Warsaw, attending the Poznań international trade fair in western Poland, found themselves seated in a restaurant with a Polish businessman, who confided, "You know, this place is going to blow sky high tomorrow." Asked what he meant, the man replied, "Yep, they're going out on the streets and they're gonna raise hell." The Americans returned to their hotel and telephoned a report to the embassy. The next day they witnessed mass demonstrations and riots that shook the Polish government and reverberated throughout Eastern Europe, but they had

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nothing to do with instigating or encouraging the violence. "We were very much on the sidelines," one recalled. "We stayed on the fringes of the mob, and I don't think we had particularly good insights as to what was going on."¹⁷⁸ (U)

The riots started early in the morning of 28 June when workers at the Zispo manufacturing plant, upset over unfair work norms and poor pay, proclaimed a general strike, marched into the city center, and were joined by workers from other factories and townspeople. As the crowd swelled to 100,000 people, some attacked a prison and freed inmates; others destroyed equipment on the roof of a government building used to jam Western radio broadcasts; still others besieged the headquarters of the state security apparatus and broke into arsenals where they seized arms. Local security forces could not deal with the violence. By late afternoon two Polish armored and two infantry divisions, some 10,000 soldiers and 360 tanks, began entering the city.¹⁷⁹ (U)

Although the United States had not been officially represented at the fair, the embassy quickly sought to show the flag. In the absence of Ambassador Joseph Jacobs, Chargé d'Affaires Barber rode from Warsaw to Poznań in the embassy's limousine adorned with an American flag. Having received "instructions to be as ostentatious as possible," he "drove back and forth through the streets" to make visible the U.S. presence.¹⁸⁰ (U)

British and U.S. diplomats thought that the presence of so many foreigners in the city for the trade fair had contributed to the demonstrators' decision to act. For visitors, as well as residents, the fighting became a spectacle. One eyewitness felt he was "in the middle of a Wild West movie." Another compared the event to spectators watching a tennis match at Wimbledon. Most of the fighting occurred the first day, but sporadic

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confrontations lasted for three more. In the end 57 people were killed and some 600 wounded. More than 700 were arrested; many prisoners were beaten and tortured to extract confessions that Western intelligence agencies were behind the demonstrations.¹⁸¹

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Secretary Dulles first learned of the uprising when his brother Allen telephoned on the evening of the 28th. The secretary remarked, "When they begin to crack, . . . they can crack fast. We have to keep the pressure on." During a discussion with his staff the next morning about how to respond, he emphasized the need to apply pressure on Soviet economic vulnerabilities, because "the Soviet economy is overextended: they are trying to match and indeed surpass the U.S. military effort; they are trying to increase their capital development; they are trying to develop their foreign aid program." He spoke of "the need to take risks" when going "on the offensive." "Nothing is achieved," he said, that did "not have some risk to it and we should not seek to make all our programs riskless."¹⁸² (U)

Much as in 1953, the official U.S. response took the form of relatively mild public statements and an offer of food. The State Department expressed shock at the shooting of people who had merely been expressing grievances, extended sympathy to their families, and noted that "all free peoples will be watching the situation closely to see whether or not the Polish people will be allowed a government which will remedy the grievances which have brought them to a breaking point." An offer by the U.S. Government to send food through the International Red Cross to alleviate the economic distress that had contributed to the outburst was rejected by the Polish Government. Vice President

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Richard Nixon* made only brief public mention of the events, saying they "eloquently illustrate" the "modern type of colonial imperialism the Communists have imposed." By voice vote the Senate approved a resolution expressing deep admiration for the people of Poznań; the House unanimously urged that the Polish situation be brought before the United Nations.¹⁸³ For Radio Free Europe the most important task, according to an internal postmortem, had been to avoid encouraging listeners "to engage in bloody but useless sacrifices" but also to keep "listeners from feeling abandoned." Its narrow, difficult course was to "hearten but not incite, sympathize but not deplore."¹⁸⁴ (U)

Although U.S. propaganda had aimed at loosening control of the satellite governments over their populations and no doubt had some effect on the Polish people, however difficult to measure, the United States played no direct part in stimulating or prolonging the riots. Its involvement was definitely less than it had been in East Germany in 1953. Under Secretary of State Herbert Hoover, Jr. told State officials the policy had always been "that we take no action which would precipitate troubles behind the Iron Curtain which would lead directly to bloodshed." All agencies had assured him that they had not violated this policy with regard to the Poznań events. An inter-agency Special Committee on Soviet and Related Problems, chaired by Assistant Secretary of State Jacob Beam, had responsibility for coordinating on a day-to-day basis the U.S. Government's responses. During the committee's discussion on 2 July, "the view was expressed that, while such violence should be exploited in appropriate ways to call

* On 8 June Eisenhower suffered an attack of ileitis, an inflammation of the intestines, and was admitted to Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, D.C. On 30 June he left the

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attention to Soviet domination of the satellites, it is U.S. policy not to incite abortive revolts." Beam later told the OCB: "No open encouragement of additional rioting or revolts is being given but there is no discouragement of additional spontaneous demonstrations."¹⁸⁵ (U)

At the OCB meeting on 3 July, both Hoover and Allen Dulles raised the possibility of discussing the riots in the United Nations. Beam cautioned against this, because "it might be harmful to our long-term interest should these internal disturbances become a matter of discussion by a UN agency." When Beam mentioned the idea to his committee, he again expressed reservations, commenting that the General Assembly probably would not take up the matter because few countries would support such a move. However, he said, State would explore the possibility of bringing it before the Economic and Social Council and raising the entire satellite issue before the General Assembly when it convened in November.¹⁸⁶ State also concluded that the Security Council would not inscribe the matter, and if it did, no favorable outcome would occur. Other countries would view the riots as strictly an internal Polish matter.¹⁸⁷ (U)

In communist countries the reaction to Poznań was along predictable lines. Propaganda organs throughout the bloc blamed Western instigation. *Pravda* claimed that "imperialist and reactionary Polish underground agents, taking advantage of certain economic difficulties, incited serious disturbances and street disorders." Soviet organs continued to harp on the Kersten amendment, condemning the Senate's recent appropriation in the Mutual Security Act of an additional \$25 million "for subversive

hospital and began a period of recuperation at his Gettysburg, Pennsylvania farm. He

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activities." In fact the Senate had approved only \$5 million in the form of grants to private organizations to maintain "the will for freedom" in Eastern Europe.¹⁸⁸ (U)

Echoing charges it had made after the 1953 uprising, the East German communist press saw Allen Dulles as the mastermind behind the riots. For evidence it cited his brother's "well thought out statement for the American State Department on the happenings in Poznan almost before any news came out of Poland,"¹⁸⁹ an apparent reference to the Secretary's 27 June news conference. When asked a few weeks later about communist charges that the Kersten amendment authorized the subversion of foreign governments, Secretary Dulles said Congress had taken no final action on the mutual security bill, but whatever amount was appropriated would be used only for "making known to the peoples of the world the good fruits of a free society. It is not going to be used for subversive activities as it is alleged."¹⁹⁰ (U)

It is difficult to say to what extent Khrushchev and other Soviet leaders believed that the United States instigated the riots. Given to bluster, Khrushchev complained a few weeks later to the Yugoslav ambassador about anti-Soviet elements in Poland, Hungary, and other satellites who were using Yugoslavia as a model for turning to the West and splitting the Soviet bloc. "Behind it all stood Dulles," he said, who "had gone a lot further this time" than was thought possible. The Americans had incorrectly drawn the conclusion that the Soviet Union was weak. "We shall show them that they've made a great mistake."¹⁹¹ (U)

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returned to Washington on 15 July.

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Fresh Ingredients

By the summer of 1956 the reorientation of policy toward the Soviet bloc begun as far back as 1952 was well along. In early June the NSC Planning Board had under consideration new policy papers calling for expanded East-West trade and more informational and cultural contacts with the communist world, as well as a new overall policy paper on relations with the satellites.¹⁹² (U)

Given the third major outbreak of anti-regime violence within the bloc in three years, and especially viewed against the backdrop of growing political and cultural ferment in the satellites, one would have thought further outbursts would be anticipated and planning begun for that contingency. This was the conclusion of C. L. Sulzberger, who lamented that the Western powers, despite the advice of many diplomatic experts, had not coordinated their policies after the East German uprising to decide what to do if something like it reoccurred in Eastern Europe. It was now "an urgent necessity," since "a new wave of reactions, hopes, debates and possibly turbulence may again shiver through the orbit."¹⁹³ (U)

Before 1956, East Germany was the only country where U.S. planners thought disturbances might again break out, though they regarded the probability slight even there. Nevertheless, the OCB in May 1955 had deemed it "useful for planning purposes to consider what action the United States should initiate in the event of a mass uprising at some future date." It noted that West Germany's achievement of sovereignty and the Austrian State Treaty, "along with continued dissatisfaction over internal economic and political conditions might eventually lead to such an uprising in East Germany." The board noted that existing policy ruled out incitement to open revolt and restricted

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"psychological warfare to the maintenance of the resistance potential of the East German population." Given these limitations, it recommended several weak diplomatic, economic, and propaganda measures, including having RIAS and USIA extensively cover any disturbances that might break out. A year later, in May 1956, the OCB noted that comments on these proposals by the missions in Bonn and Berlin and subsequent developments had shown certain of the recommendations to be impracticable.¹⁹⁴ In short, the East German effort produced little of significance. And no record has been found that any contingency planning was done to cover the possibility of an uprising elsewhere in the Soviet bloc. (U)

Final consideration of the new East European paper coincided with the immediate aftermath of the Poznań riots. The Planning Board approved, without major changes, State's draft and circulated it for discussion at the NSC's 12 July meeting. Designated NSC 5608, the paper "somewhat modified the statement of US basic objectives in Eastern Europe" and "redefined the general courses of action to bring them into conformity with the present situation in Eastern Europe and with a more realistic assessment of US capabilities to effect developments in that area." It recognized that the security apparatuses in the bloc countries made it difficult to conduct covert operations there and that specific operations required much time to prepare. Because of recent setbacks, it was "of the utmost importance to proceed with extreme care in this field with a view to solid accomplishment for the long run." The paper rejected two extremes: either using military force to liberate the satellites, or accepting Soviet control for an indefinite period. Between them lay a large area for actions to weaken and eventually eliminate the Soviet hold. But the paper cautioned that this would not happen in the near future.¹⁹⁵ (U)

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At the 12 July meeting presided over by Vice President Nixon, Special Assistant for National Security Affairs Dillon Anderson said the new paper reflected a shift in emphasis. The old objective was to undermine the regimes, the new one to foster changes in them. Anderson paused in his remarks to allow discussion of the paper's recommendation that the administration seek congressional approval for greater flexibility in using economic incentives with the satellites, such as offering surplus agricultural commodities. Secretary of the Treasury George Humphrey argued that Congress, which had been balking at other administration requests, would never approve. Supporting Humphrey, Secretary of Defense Charles Wilson said he did not want to raise the standard of living in the satellites by providing surplus food, thereby indirectly promoting their political stability and military power. Secretary Dulles pointed out that the paper did not advocate trade with the satellites. It merely wanted the U.S. Government to be able to make such an offer to a satellite government which it could not reject without putting pressure on the Soviet Union to match the offer. If accepted, the United States would gain political influence in that country. It was more a question of political and economic warfare—"gestures and feints" in confronting the communist bloc--than of trade. Dulles recalled that "when we made our offer recently to the people of Poznan, we never seriously thought that we would be able to provide food to these people. Our main idea was to embarrass the Government of Communist Poland." When Nixon said he also agreed with Treasury's position, Dulles replied that he had no intention for the present to go before Congress seeking such authority and would agree to delete the disputed language. But if the situation later warranted it, he would request such authority. (U)

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At Dulles's request, they turned to a paragraph in the paper calling for the United States to "encourage the satellite peoples in passive resistance to their Soviet-dominated regimes when this will contribute to minimizing satellite contributions to Soviet power or to increasing pressures for desirable change." In doing so the United States was to "avoid incitements to violence or to action when the probable reprisals or other results would yield a net loss in terms of U.S. objectives." Dulles considered this paragraph "too negative in character" and proposed adding the following clarifying statement:

In general, however, do not discourage, by public utterances or otherwise, spontaneous manifestations of discontent and opposition to the Communist regime, despite risks to individuals, when their net results will exert pressures for release from Soviet domination. Operations which might involve or lead to local violence will be authorized only by the Secretary of State and the Director of CIA on the basis of feasibility, minimum risk, and maximum contribution to the fundamental interests of the United States.

The situation had changed in Eastern Europe, he believed, and "it might be quite useful for the United States to have some violent outbursts in the satellite countries. Moreover, we shouldn't necessarily be appalled by the fact that if such uprisings occurred a certain number of people would be killed. After all, one cannot defend or regain liberty without some inevitable loss of life." Dulles added that of course he did not want to have "a lot of low-level officials running around and stirring up riots and uprisings in the satellite countries." Only under exceptional circumstances and only after the most careful and cautious consideration at the very highest levels should such disturbances be encouraged.

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Nixon opposed any policy based on the view that essentially nothing could be done to change the status quo—an attitude he attributed to George Kennan. He felt the

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paper had such a tone; it suggested that "the United States should relax because it can do nothing to remedy the unhappy conditions in the satellites." On the other hand, Special Assistant William Jackson pointed out that the paper, with conditions now more favorable for action in Eastern Europe, allowed the United States to be more active "short of violence." Allen Dulles said that the new paper would not restrict the CIA in any way from carrying out activities already under way, such as RFE broadcasts, balloon operations, support of exile groups, and encouraging defection. (U)

Reverting to the concerns Nixon had expressed, Secretary Dulles said that certain language, and the negative tone of a paragraph in the annexed staff study, had greatly bothered him since it would prevent the United States from encouraging outbreaks like the 1953 East German uprising and the Poznań riots. "Sometimes unrest of this sort and uprisings like these," he said, "were an important part of the way we have to play the game." Nixon voiced agreement: "After all, we are not saying that we are going to initiate uprisings and violence in the satellites. We are merely saying that that we will not always discourage such uprisings and violence if the uprisings should occur spontaneously." (U)

The members generally agreed with Allen Dulles's expressed reservations about supporting national communism, which, he said, might be "very damaging to the democratic, idealistic, and religious people in the satellites who looked to the United States for guidance and ultimate relief. He thought "carefully selected assistance" should be given to national communist movements "in certain circumstances" and "very discreetly and perhaps only by covert means." When Wilson expressed strong disapproval of support for any national communist movement, Secretary Dulles

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explained that the objective was simply to loosen the ties between a satellite and the Soviet Union. He did not advocate open support of national communist movements. The Vice President added that "from the point of view of domestic politics or of our international relations" nothing would "be worse than the occurrence of a leak tending to indicate that we at the highest levels were agreeing on a policy for national communism under any circumstances." Discussion then focused on ways to prevent leakage of the contents of the new paper, which Foster Dulles called "rather a rarity among our policy papers, in that in this paper we were dealing with the offensive vis-à-vis the Soviet bloc, rather than, as usual, dealing with the defensive." The council finally decided to take out certain sensitive portions and include them, along with Dulles's proposed additional statement, in a limited distribution appendix.¹⁹⁶ (U)

One has to wonder whether those present felt freer to express themselves as they did because of Eisenhower's absence. In any event, on 18 July Eisenhower, now back at the White House, approved the amended paper (NSC 5608/1) after directing that the appendix stipulate that certain operations required the authorization of the the Secretary of State and the President and that it omit reference to the Director of Central Intelligence. As approved, the appendix was carefully hedged, legalistic, and vague. The United States, it stated, should do the following:

1. Avoid incitements to violence or to action when the probable reprisals or other results would yield a net loss in terms of U.S. objectives. In general, however, do not discourage, by public utterances or otherwise, spontaneous manifestations of discontent and opposition to the Communist regime, despite risks to individuals, when their net results will exert pressures for release from Soviet domination. Operations which might involve or lead to local violence will be authorized only by the Secretary of State with the approval of the President on the basis of feasibility,

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minimum risk, and maximum contribution to the basic U.S. objectives in NSC 5608/1.

2. As a means of encouraging the eventual establishment of freely elected governments in the satellites as a disruptive device and not as an end in itself, be prepared on a case-by-case basis generally, covertly, and under appropriate policy guidance to assist nationalism in any form where conducive to independence from Soviet domination and* when U.S. and free world cohesion would not be jeopardized thereby.¹⁹⁷ (U)

NSC 5608/1 diverged from its predecessor (NSC 174) in two seemingly contradictory ways. It represented what the Planning Board had intended—a further shift toward an evolutionary approach, what some like Nixon saw as a softer policy. But its appendix was a move in the other direction—toward greater willingness to view bloodshed in the satellites as desirable and, in certain well-proscribed circumstances, to undertake operations that might precipitate violence. Although the Poznań riots came up only in passing during the 12 July discussion, they likely contributed to the greater willingness of Secretary Dulles and others to embrace the latter approach. This dual policy, framed in a slightly different way than previously, continued to reflect the underlying ambivalence in the U.S. attitude toward unrest in the region. (U)

The riots not only made an impression on Secretary Dulles, but also on his brother. A few days after the President approved the new policy, the CIA Director repeated to a visitor the same sentiments the Secretary had expressed about the desirability of bloodshed in the satellites and that he himself had voiced at the 1952 Princeton meeting.

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I got very angry with some of my people for not sending others after the June 17th [1953] thing in Germany. It would have been horrible if people had gotten killed. But the horrible thing in that Czechoslovakian thing [1953 Plzeň riots?] was that nobody got killed. I'd have felt much better about that and the Czechoslovakian people would have stood much higher in the world's estimation if there had been a thousand or ten thousand people killed in that. We kill more people on the roads every day for no purpose. They were killed in that Poznan affair. You've got to take some risks and you can't make an omelet without breaking eggs.¹⁹⁸ (U)

The President may not have agreed. When the NSC met in September to consider revising policy toward East Germany, this time with Eisenhower presiding, a new draft paper had a special annex with language virtually identical to that in the appendix to the East European paper. The body of the paper called for encouraging passive resistance "when this will contribute to minimizing East German contributions to Soviet power or to increasing pressures for reunification" and for fostering "disaffection in the East German armed forces." Eisenhower and now Foster Dulles, too, expressed reservations. If strikes or violence broke out, said Dulles, the communists could claim that the United States was responsible. Eisenhower, unsure whether passive resistance included strikes, worried about encouraging the East German people "to run risks and incur reprisals when we are not actually in a position to help them." He preferred to say that passive resistance should be encouraged so long as it did not involve reprisals against the population. Special Assistant Jackson explained that passive resistance, not violence, was the objective; the latter possibility was covered in the special annex. Not satisfied, Dulles argued that if the statement on passive resistance became known, the communists might contend that the

* In approving NSC 5608/1, Eisenhower directed that the words "nationalism in any form where conducive to independence from Soviet domination and" replace the words "National Communist' movements" that had been in NSC 5608.

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United States had encouraged the kind of violence that had broken out in Poznań. Despite all the questioning, no substantive changes occurred in the language. The NSC decided merely to remove from the body of the paper statements about encouraging passive resistance among the general population and disaffection within the East German armed forces and add them to a limited distribution special annex.¹⁹⁹ (U)

Did the United States in the late summer and fall of 1956 carry out the kinds of activities in Eastern Europe and East Germany—"operations that might involve or lead to local violence"—that the new NSC papers' annexes sanctioned? Far from conclusive, available documentation suggests that these kinds of operations did not take place. (U)

What the CIA apparently had in mind was a stepped-up propaganda campaign directed at the satellites. At the same time that the Planning Board was drafting NSC 5608, the agency was developing its own new policy paper, "A Comprehensive Covert Plan for the Satellites,"²⁰⁰ which apparently took a somewhat more aggressive line than the NSC paper. The agency's Clandestine Services Division felt that the NSC effort did not adequately reflect the degree of change that had occurred within the satellites nor "the real opportunities that the U.S. and other western powers may have to influence the direction of these changes and the resultant ferment," which it believed the CIA paper "more adequately covered."²⁰¹ [REDACTED] CIA 1.4(c) OSD 1.4(c)

The CIA also prepared a new statement of policy governing the operations of the Free Europe Committee, which it felt accorded with its own paper on Eastern Europe. The statement noted that because "political warfare depends upon contact with the enemy, there is now a real opportunity to wage it in the satellites. This opportunity is the more exploitable because of the many indications that events in the satellites are moving

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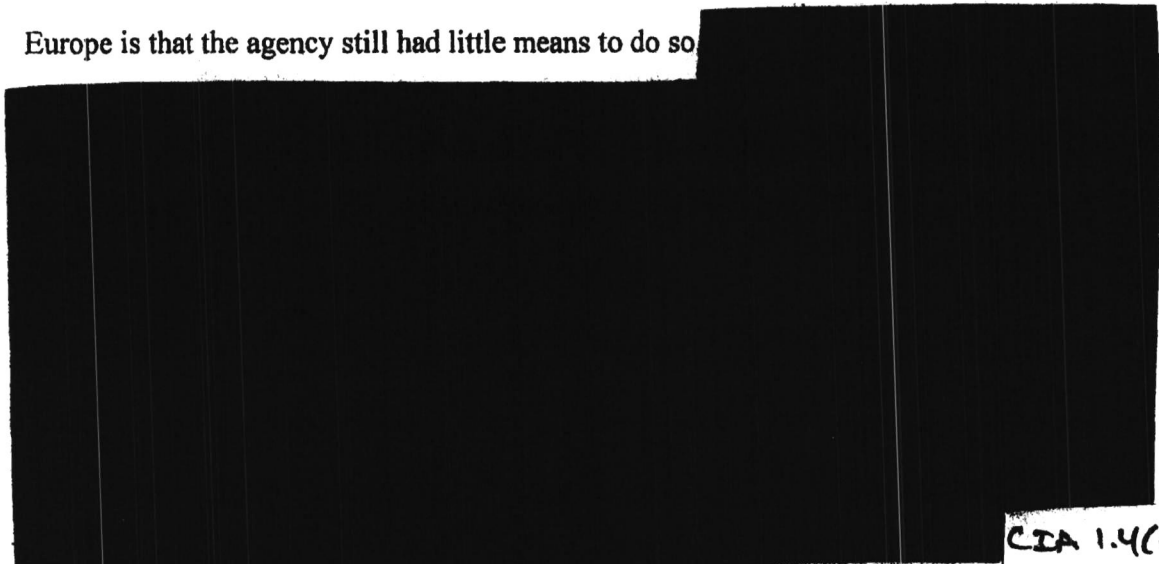
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more rapidly than the leaders expected or were fully prepared to cope with." The paper defined FEC's major objectives as inducing "the people and elites of the captive nations" to seek (1) freedom from Soviet control over their internal and external affairs, in the latter case to the extent that it could be brought about "by neutralization on the Austrian or Finnish model," with the resulting withdrawal of these nations from the Warsaw Pact, and (2) freedom to form "non-military regional agreements or federations and eventually, either directly or through regional units, to negotiate entry into all-European non-military organizations or into an all-European federation or confederation."²⁰² No mention was made of encouraging violence on a small-scale or even widespread passive resistance.

(U)

OSD 1.4(c)

Another reason for doubting that the CIA tried to incite violence in Eastern Europe is that the agency still had little means to do so



CIA 1.4(c)

Yet a myth has arisen, perhaps derived in part from communist propaganda about the Kersten amendment, that the CIA was training thousands of East European émigrés in the West during the 1950s to invade their homelands and overthrow the communist regimes. The notion gained credibility when retired CIA official James Angleton in 1976

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told a reporter that this had been the case. Many scholarly accounts subsequently swallowed the story. One, based on further information apparently supplied by Angleton, claimed that the Poznań riots were viewed as ushering in a wave of national uprisings in Eastern Europe with the support of a CIA operation called RedSox/Red Cap.. That summer and fall, so the story went, the CIA carried out plans for uprisings in Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and Rumania. "Red Sox/Red Cap groups, like latter-day Trojan Horse forces," one account declared, "were inserted into those nations' capitals and plans were made final for the 'freedom fighters' to throw off the evil yoke of communism."²⁰⁴ In fact, Red Sox and Red Cap were two separate programs that focused on the Soviet Union. Neither had anything to do with training paramilitary groups to overthrow East European governments.²⁰⁵ (U)

Despite Republican campaign rhetoric in 1952 and Democratic efforts to make it seem more bellicose than it was, the Eisenhower administration did not pursue a more aggressive policy than Truman's toward the East European satellites. Former Secretary of State Acheson, for one, believed that the policies of the two administrations did not essentially differ--only the words did. British Ambassador Roger Makins recalled that Eisenhower entered office apparently committed to a policy of liberating the satellites. Following a relaxation of tension, the liberation policy "soon appeared almost indistinguishable from that of 'containment.'" George Kennan said much the same thing, but gave it a personal twist. He considered Foster Dulles, in effect, a "closet" version of himself, though he did not use that word. If the two men "disagreed on what should be said publicly on such matters as liberation of the Eastern European countries," Kennan

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felt they did not differ "on what should be done practically." Dulles "knew that he would have no choice but to follow my line." Beyond the practical constraints, he thought that "there was great intimacy of thought" between them, that "we understood each other better" than anyone else did. Dulles differed with him publicly, in Kennan's view, because he was concerned about how Republicans in the Senate viewed him and went too far in his public comments to please them.²⁰⁶ (U)

Though the administration's ambivalent public rhetoric has drawn the most scrutiny, there was also a fuzziness in the language of its and the Truman administration's internal deliberations. What exactly was meant by statements, with the 1944 Warsaw uprising often in mind, that the United States should not support "premature" or "abortive" uprisings? Were only successful uprisings to be supported, or were the words merely a way to describe a do-nothing policy? Two months into the Eisenhower administration, a PSB staff member expressed concern that such talk meant the latter, what he derisively called "dynamic passivity."²⁰⁷ Perhaps the closest anyone came to defining "premature" was when Eisenhower, in discussing the possibility of aiding the East German insurgents in June 1953, observed that upheavals within the Soviet empire would have to spread and also occur in China or the Soviet Union before the United States would actively intervene.

The heyday of CIA activity in Eastern Europe did not come during the Eisenhower administration, but in the period 1949-52. By 1952 a scaling back of the agency's efforts had already begun. If Eisenhower's policy proved less aggressive than Truman's, it was in large part because of the relaxed international climate fostered by Stalin's death, the Austrian treaty, the Geneva summit, and Khrushchev's secret speech.

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Truman likely would have responded to these events in much the same way as Eisenhower did. (U)

Throughout both administrations official policy looked with disfavor on the direct promotion of violence that might lead to bloodbaths. Eisenhower seemed particularly anxious to avoid this. Privately, however, such key figures as the Dulles brothers and C. D. Jackson expressed the opinion that a little bloodshed creating martyrs to Soviet repression would be a good thing. (U)

Disappointed by the poor results achieved in stirring satellite unrest, the Eisenhower administration felt limited, as Under Secretary of State Herbert Hoover explained in March 1956, to "playing for the breaks' and doing our best to maintain the morale of the populations of the satellite states."²⁰⁸ By the summer and early fall of 1956 the policy of improvising and muddling through had proved, on the face of it, almost successful, though the degree to which its statements and actions influenced events within those countries is debatable.

It is striking that the administration, having concluded that organized resistance had virtually been eliminated, ignored the possibility of another large-scale uprising, despite concerns expressed by high CIA officials and others that lack of planning for that eventuality would leave the United States unprepared, as it had been in June 1953, to take advantage of new opportunities to loosen Soviet control over the satellites. This is indeed what happened in the fall of 1956 when the pot boiled over more than expected and Hungarians incredibly by their own force of arms almost managed to overthrow their communist regime. (U)

1. Hershberg, *James B. Conant*, 660 (U).
2. For the internal debates within the Truman administration, see Corke, *US Covert Operations and Cold War Strategy*, and Callanan, *Covert Action in the Cold War*, 15-69 (U).
3. The best treatment of Jackson's service as Eisenhower's Special Assistant is Brands, *Cold Warriors*, 117-37 (U). Cook in "First Comes the Lie," (U), and *Declassified Eisenhower* (U), and Evica in *A Certain Arrogance*, 164-87 (U), exaggerate Jackson's influence. While disagreeing in certain respects with Cook's analysis, Ingimundarson ("Containing the Offensive") generally accepts her portrayal of Jackson's part in shaping policy toward Germany (U). See also O'Gorman, "The One Word the Kremlin Fears," (U); and Stern, "Propaganda in the Employ of Democracy" (U).
4. Kovrig, *Myth of Liberation*, and his updated, *Of Walls and Bridges* (U), were pioneer efforts. See also Borhi, "Rollback, Liberation, Containment or Inaction?" (U); Hixson, *Parting the Curtain* (U); Tudra, *Truth Is Our Weapon* (U); Grose, *Operation Rollback* (U); Lucas, *Freedom's War* (U); Krebs, *Dueling Visions* (U); and Mitrovich, *Undermining the Kremlin* (U).
5. For example, see Ivie, "Eisenhower as Cold Warrior" (U); Osgood, *Total Cold War* (U), and Chernus, *Apocalypse Management* (U).
6. NSC 58/2, "United States Policy toward the Soviet Satellite States in Eastern Europe," 8 Dec 49, *FRUS 1949*, 5:42-44, 50 (U).

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7. Karelekas, "History of the Central Intelligence Agency," 41-43 (U); Warner, ed, *CIA under Harry Truman*, xxv (U); memo Joyce for Matthews, 31 Dec 52, *FRUS 1950-55: Intelligence Community*, 387-92 (quote) (U).
8. Regarding the campaign and particularly the debate over policy toward Eastern Europe, see Divine, *Foreign Policy and U.S. Presidential Elections, 1952-1960*, 122-29, and Kovrig, *Myth of Liberation*, 106-20 (U).
9. Princeton mtg verbatim transcript, 10 May 52, 3-4, 30 (Jackson quotes), atchd to ltr Galantiere to Jackson, 6 Jun 52, Doc. CK3100249445, *DDRS* (U).
10. Rostow, *Europe After Stalin*, 39-41 (U); Morgan comments, mins PSB Staff mtg, 12 May 52, Doc. CK31000059628, *DDRS* (U); Princeton mtg verbatim transcript, afternoon session, 10 May 52, Doc. CK3100249335, *ibid* (U); draft summary of Princeton mtg, atchd to ltr Galantiere to Jackson, 9 Jun 52, 15, Doc. CK3100249445, *ibid* (quote) (U). For the final text of the group's suggested statement, see Rostow, *Europe After Stalin*, 134-35 (U).
11. In April 1952 Jackson wrote to an Eisenhower aide at NATO complaining about the failings of U.S. psychological warfare planning and that he intended to gather a group to develop "a Plan for the USA based on the assumption that Psychwar can be successful." He learned that his letter had been shown to Eisenhower, who had expressed the wish to receive a copy of whatever plan the group developed (ltrs Jackson to Biddle, 17 Mar 52, and Biddle to Jackson, 17 Apr 52: fldr Biddle, Anthony J. Drexel & Mrs., box 35, Jackson Papers, DDEL) (U).

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12. "A Policy of Boldness," *Life*, 19 May 52, 146-60, passim (U). According to a picture caption (148), Dulles wrote the article a fortnight before publication.
 13. Dulles, *War or Peace*, 242 (U).
 14. Republican Party platform, 10 Jul 52, and Democratic Party platform, 24 Jul 52: *New York Times*, 11, 25 Jul 52, respectively (U).
 15. Section 101 (a) (1) of P.L. 165, Mutual Security Act of 1951, 10 Oct 51 (65 Stat. 373). The act, as further amended, is in *American Foreign Policy: Basic Documents, 1950-55*, 2:3059-86 (U). Regarding Soviet bloc reaction to the Kersten amendment, see Mastny, *Cold War and Soviet Insecurity*, 119-20 (U).
 16. *New York Times*, 14 Aug 52; ltr Stevenson to Truman, 23 Aug 52, quoted in Greene, *The Crusade*, 188 (U); desp 402 Washington to For Off, 21 Aug 52, FO 462/6, Confidential Print: United States of America, NAK (U).
 17. *New York Times*, 26 Aug 52 (U).
 18. Harriman and Dulles delivered addresses on successive days at the annual convention in Buffalo of the American Political Science Association. Summaries of their remarks are *ibid*, 27, 28 Aug 52 (U).
 19. Stevenson, quoted in desp 903 Saving Washington to For Off, FO 462/6, Foreign Office Confidential Print: United States of America, NAK (U); Hamtramck address, 1 Sep 52, *Major Campaign Speeches*, 53-56 (U); Grand Rapids address, 1 Sep 52, Johnson, ed, *Papers of Adlai E. Stevenson*, 4:65-68 (quote, 66) (U); San Francisco address, 9 Sep 52, *ibid*, 82 (U). For the text of Truman's speech at Parkersburg, West Virginia, on 2 September, see *New York Times*, 3 Sep 52 (U).

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20. *New York Times*, 7 Sep 52 (U); Hartford address, 18 Sep 52, Johnson, ed, *Papers of Adlai E. Stevenson*, 4:97 (U).
21. Adams, *Firsthand Report*, 88 (U); Sosnkowski memo of conv with Eisenhower, 30 Oct 52, Sosnkowski, *Materiały Historyczne*, 372-73 (U); *New York Times*, 6, 9 Nov 52 (U).
22. Ibid, 16 Jan 53 (U); SFRC, *Hearing: Nomination of John Foster Dulles*, 15 Jan 53, 13-18, 24-27 (U); interv Livingston Merchant by Philip Crowl, 13 Mar-17 Apr 55, 33-34, JFDOHP, PU (U); interv Robert Bowie by Richard Challener, 10 Aug 64, 47: ibid (U); Eisenhower diary entry, 14 May 53, Galambos et al, eds, *Papers of Dwight David Eisenhower*, 14:224 (U).
23. Paper, "Summary of a Report from the Central Intelligence Agency," 1 Aug 52, Annex D to PSB D-30, *FRUS, 1950-55: Intelligence Community*, 315 (U); memrcd, Morgan, 10 Jul 52, Doc. CK3100311219, *DDRS* (U); Mickelson, *America's Other Voice*, 86 (U). Lindsay's report of 17 September 1952 to the DCI on his European trip has not been found. It is referred to and summarized in memos to the Chief, P & P, from Helms of 18 September and from Hulick of 6 October [REDACTED] Supported by Helms and Barnes, Lindsay put his ideas into a long paper entitled, "A Program for the Development of New Cold War Instruments," dated 3 March 1953, that he submitted to Dulles under cover of a memo of 23 April 1953 (ibid) [REDACTED] A sanitized text of Lindsay's 3 March paper is Doc. CK3100527646, *DDRS* (U). CIA 1.4(C)

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24. Lukes, "Rudolf Slánský Affair," 160-87 (U) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] See also McDermott, "'Polyphony of
Voices'?" 847-48 (U), [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

25. Polish Press Agency communiqué, 28 Dec 52, in Polish People's Republic,
Documents on the Hostile Policy of the United States Government, 204-40 (U);
Rositzke, *CIA's Secret Operations*, 170 (U); Grose, *Rollback*, 176-79 (U);
Aldrich, *Hidden Hand*, 164-67 (U); Bagley, *Spy Wars*, 118-29. See also CIA
study, [REDACTED] Regarding
WiN's operations and contacts with the British in the early postwar period, see
Dorril, *MI6*, 249-63 (U). CIA 1.4(c) OSD 1.4(c)

26. [REDACTED]

27. Little, if anything, has been written about covert operations conducted
independently against Albania by Italy, Greece, and Yugoslavia. Regarding the

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Anglo-American efforts, the fullest treatment is Bethell, *Betrayed* (U). See also Aldrich, *Hidden Hand*, 160-65 (U); Winks, *Cloak and Gown*, 394-403 (U); Prados, *Safe for Democracy*, 58-64 (U); Grose, *Rollback*, 154-63; Verrier, *Through the Looking Glass*, 66-77 (U); Powers, *Man Who Kept the Secrets*, 44-45 (U); and Felix [McCargar], *Short Course in the Secret War*, 280-87 (U). Some secondary accounts border on fantasy. For example, Moseley claims without citing a source that the British and the Americans in April 1950 infiltrated an army of 500 Albanian émigrés from across the Greek border, of which 200 were killed upon arrival and another 120 captured and executed (*Dulles*, 278) (U). For the insistence that the operation was a probe, see interview of James McCargar by Charles Stuart Kennedy, 18 Apr 95, 24, FAOHC (U).

28. For British-Albanian relations during and shortly after World War II, see Dorril, *MI6*, 354-65 (U). For the U.S.-Albanian fruitless negotiations, see Peters, "Albania: US Position on Recognition," (U) and Costa, *Albania*, 111-28 (U).
29. [REDACTED] The CIA operation was codenamed BGFIEND, the British operation VALUABLE. (U) CIA 1.4(c)
30. Jeffery, *Secret History of MI6*, 712-14 (U); [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] extract, rcd of mtg between Acheson and Bevin, 14 Sep 49, FO 371/78218, Foreign Office: General Correspondence, NAK (U). OSD 1.4(c)
31. Bethell, *Betrayed*, 71-87 (U); Pearson, *Albania as Dictatorship and Democracy*, 374-78 (U). Jeffery (*Secret History of MI6*, 715) states that 29 men, not 20, were

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put ashore and that one group of five was killed and another group reported missing.

32. [REDACTED]

33. ORE 71-49, "Current Situation in Albania," 15 Dec 49, 1, CIA website (U). See also ltr King (Belgrade Embassy) to Rumbold (For Off), 5 May 50, and draft ltr Rumbold to King, nd: FO 371/87508, Foreign Office: General Correspondence, NAK (U).

34. Bethell, *Betrayed*, 168-70 (U).

35. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] note, Albanian Foreign Ministry to UN General

Assembly President, 19 Nov 51, FO 371/95027, Foreign Office: General Correspondence, NAK (U). CIA 1.4(c)

36. NIE-42, "The Current Situation in Albania with Particular Reference to Greek, Yugoslav and Italian Interests," 20 Nov 51, fldr NIE 42-51, box 3, Entry 1373, NIEs, SEs, and SNIEs, RG 59, NACP (U). An excised text is on the CIA website.

37. Bethell, *Betrayed*, 175-76 (U). OSD 1.4(c)

38. [REDACTED]

39. 

40. NIE 42/1, "Yugoslav Intentions Toward Albania," 20 Oct 52, fldr NIE 42/1-52, box 3, Entry 1373, NIEs, SEs, and SNIEs, RG 59, NACP (U); SE-34, "Consequences of an Attempt to Overthrow the Present Regime in Albania," 30 Dec 52, fldr SE-34, box 2, ibid (U). Partially declassified copies of the estimates are on the CIA website (U). CIA 1.4(c)

41. Dorril, MI6, 399-400 (U).

42. 

43. 

 Tomek, "On the Cold War Front," 5 (U). Tomek's study furnished the basic materials for a November 2009 exhibition in Prague organized jointly by the U.S. Embassy and the Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes 

44. 

OSD 1.4(c)

45. Memo Erskine for DepSecDef, 6 Jul 53, with atchd draft memo for ServSecs et al, fldr Chrono, box 13, Special Operations Files, Acc 63A-1575, RG 330, WNRC

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46. PSB D-24, "Program of Psychological Preparation for Stalin's Passing from Power," 1 Nov 52, *FRUS 1952-54*, 8:1059-60 (U). See also Stevens' memo for Morgan, 21 January 1953, transmitting State's suggestions for instructions for U.S. official output in the period immediately following Stalin's death (*ibid*, 1071-73) (U).
47. Memo Jackson for Pres, 2 Apr 53, fldr Eisenhower, Dwight D. Correspondence 1953 (2), box 50, Jackson Papers, DDEL (U). Regarding the prolonged drafting of the speech, see Hughes, *Ordeal of Power*, 100-15 (U), and his diary entries for the period 5 March-18 April in box 5, Hughes Papers, PU (U). See also Rostow, *Europe After Stalin*, 38-60, 102-10 (U).
48. Rostow's supporting thinking for 1st draft of msg to Soviet Government and Russian peoples, 6 Mar 53, Rostow, *Europe After Stalin*, 89 (U).
49. Memo Nitze for SecState, 2 Apr 53, fldr Pres.'s Speech, Apr. 1953 (1), box 1, Draft Correspondence and Speech series, John Foster Dulles Papers, DDEL (U).
50. Diary entries, 11 and 12 Apr 53, fldr Diary 1953-1957, box 5, Hughes Papers, PU (U).
51. Address, "The Chance for Peace," 16 Apr 53, *Eisenhower Public Papers, 1953*, 179-88 (quotes, 185, 187) (U).

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52. Address, "The First 90 Days," 18 Apr 53, Department of State *Bulletin*, 27 Apr 53, 603-08 (U); Gardner, "Poisoned Apples," 85-86 (U); diary entry, 3 Jun 53, Sulzberger, *Long Row of Candles*, 877 (U).
53. PSB D-40, "Plan for Psychological Exploitation of Stalin's Death" 23 Apr 53, Doc. CK3100141169, *DDRS* (U).
54. Chronological account of Dulles's background talk, not for attribution, at Overseas Writers' luncheon, 3 Apr 53, CIA-RDP-00058R00010051-3, 4, 7, CREST, NACP (U).
55.  OSD 1.4(c)
CIA 1.4(c)
56. Mickelsen, *America's Other Voice*, 86 (U); Puddington, *Broadcasting Freedom*, 56 (U); Special Guidance No. 8, 16 Apr 53, CIA website (U).
57. Regarding the VFC and its predecessors, see Brands, "A Cold War Foreign Legion?" (U); Carruthers, "Between Camps" (U); and Carafano, "Mobilizing Europe's Stateless" (U).
58. Ltr Erskine to Anders, 30 Jul 54, fldr Chrono, box 13, Special Operations Files, Acc 63A-1575, WNRC (C), ltrs Erskine to Allen Dulles, 10 Jan 55 (U) and 24 May 55 (C), both in fldr Chrono, box 12, *ibid*.
59. PSB D-31, "A Strategic Concept for a National Psychological Program with Particular Reference to Cold War Operations under NSC 10/5," 26 Nov 52, *FRUS: Intelligence Community, 1950-55*, 379 (U).

60.

61.

CIA 1.4(c)

62. In early May strikes by workers in tobacco factories in southern Bulgaria led to rioting that governmental negotiations with the strikers quickly defused. See Kramer, "Early Post-Stalin Succession Struggle," Pt 1:15-17 (U), and a report on the disturbance in Plovdiv, 7 May 53 (Ostermann, *Uprising in East Germany* 1953, 86-89) (U). OSD 1.4(c)

63. McDermott, "Popular Resistance in Communist Czechoslovakia," 291-92, 296-97 (U); Ulc, "Pilsen," 47 (U); Smula, "Party and Proletariat," 168-69 (U); RFE rpt, 8 Sep 53 (Ostermann, ed, *Uprising in East Germany*, 130) (U); Kramer, "Early Post-Stalin Succession Struggle," Pt 1:17-22 (U). See also the report from British Ambassador Kermode in Prague to Prime Minister Churchill, 23 Jun 53, FO 470/7, Foreign Office: Confidential Print: Czechoslovakia, NAK (U)

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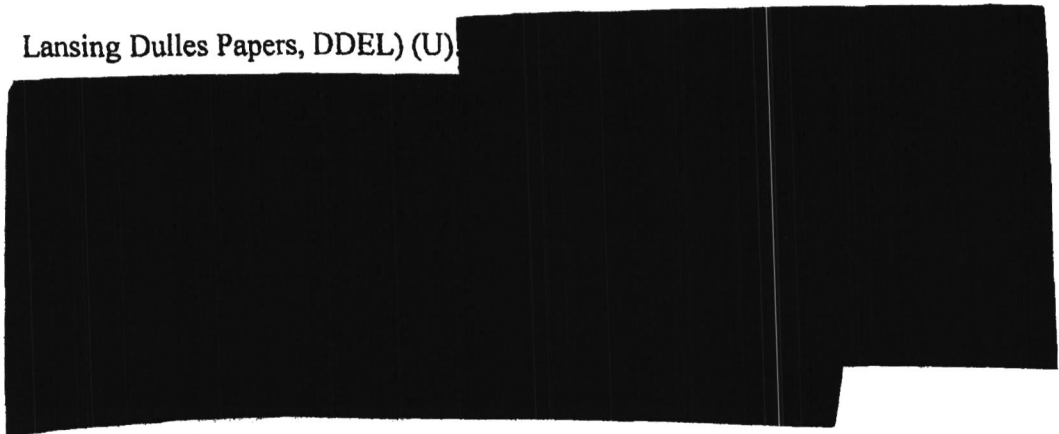
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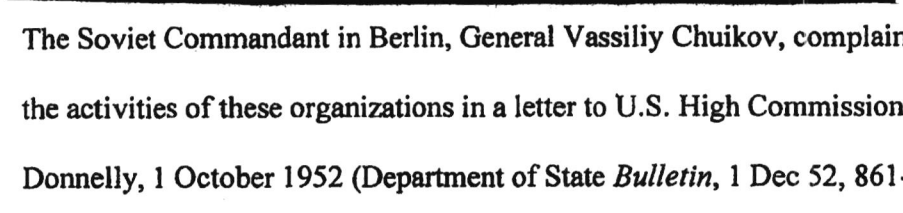
64. Office of Evaluation and Review, "Daily Intelligence Abstracts No. 25," 9 Jun 53, fldr PSB 350.5 [Intelligence Abstracts] (3), box 25, PSB Central FilesDDEL (U).
65. English translations of early German accounts of the uprising include Baring, *Uprising in East Germany* (U); Brant, *East German Rising* (U); and Hildebrandt, *Explosion* (U). For a review of works that appeared at the time of the 50th anniversary, see Sperber, "17 June 1953: Revisiting a German Revolution" (U). See Stebbe, "The SED. German Communism and the June 1953 Uprising," for a review of other recent literature (U).
66. HICOG, "Daily Radio Digest," No. 121 (covering Soviet and Soviet-controlled German-language broadcasts of 24 June), fldr RIAS Official Reports, box 1, Ewing Collection, Marshall Library (U). See also the report prepared by Rutgers University's Department of Sociology "Soviet Reporting on the East German Uprisings" (U). East German spy chief Markus Wolf recalled that one of his agents inside the U.S. military mission reported that Allen and Eleanor Dulles came to the city just before the uprising. (Wolf, *Man Without a Face*, 63 (U)) As an enclosure to a letter of 27 June, Allen Dulles sent his brother and sister transcripts of various European radio broadcasts repeating the claim that he, along with Eleanor, had been in Berlin during the uprisings. In the letter, he said, "You may be amused at the radio broadcasts—Communist and other—with regard to family matters and Berlin." (fldr Berlin June 12-23, 1953, box 31, Eleanor

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67. See the statement by Chairman of the Polish delegation at the UN General Assembly Wierblowski, 20 Oct 51, detailing the origins of the alleged "Plan X," in *Documents on the Hostile Policy of the United States Government*, 197-99 (U).
68. Telcon Dulles and Wisner, 12 Jun 54, Microfilm Reel 2, *Dulles/Herter Telephone Conversations* (U). OSD 1.4(c) CIA 1.4(c)
69. PSB D-21, "A National Psychological Strategy with Respect to Germany," 9 Oct 52, *FRUS 1952-54*, 7:370-80 (1st quote, 375) (U). A more complete, but still sanitized, text is Doc. CK3100140576, *DDRS* (2d quote, 9-10) (U).
70. 
71. 
72. The Soviet Commandant in Berlin, General Vassiliy Chuikov, complained about the activities of these organizations in a letter to U.S. High Commissioner Walter Donnelly, 1 October 1952 (Department of State *Bulletin*, 1 Dec 52, 861-62 (U)) Donnelly's reply of 1 December rejected Chuikov's charges as "baseless and a travesty of the facts. (*American Foreign Policy: Basic Documents 1950-55*, 1742-

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44 (U).

Murphy, Kondrashev, and

Bailey, *Battleground Berlin*, 107-08 (U); and Smith, *Kidnap City*, 98-106 (U).

73.

CIA 1.4(c)
OSD 1.4(c)

74. Interv Ewing by Brewster Chamberlin and Jurgen Wetzel, 18 May 81, 38-40, box 1, Ewing Collection, Marshall Library (U). An extract of the interview, in German, is in Spittmann and Fricke, *17. Juni 1953*, 212-15 (U).
75. Fischer, *Two Days that Shook the Soviet World*, 15 (U); Ostermann, "The United States, the East German Uprising of 1953, and the Limits of Rollback," 14 (U). For a brief survey of the published literature on RIAS's role in the uprising, see Schlosser, "Berlin Radio War," 198-99, n 2 (U).
76. Jackson said that nobody foresaw the uprising, "neither G-2, nor CIA, nor Mayor Reuter, nor his incredible intelligence service in Berlin." (Address, U.S. Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania, 8 Oct 53, 14, War College Lectures, USAMHI) (U).
77. Office of Current Intelligence, "Survey of Unrest in Eastern Europe," 13 Jun 53, CIA-RDP91T01172R0002003100019-7, CREST, NACP (U).
78. RFE Guidance No. 12, "The Change of Communist Line in Eastern Germany," 11 Jun 52, and unsigned paper, "Analysis of Soviet Policy and Current Developments in Eastern Germany and Czechoslovakia," 12 Jun 53, atchd to ltr Caesar to Jackson, 15 Jun 53, fldr RFE, box 5, Jackson Papers, DDEL (U). Caesar

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mentioned that Jackson saw the two papers at a meeting with RFE staff on 13 June. He said that the results of the meeting were "terrific" and that RFE was "hard at work this morning implementing your decisions." (U) See also the quoted extracts from Phenix memo, 18 Jun 53, in Puddington, *Broadcasting Freedom*, 56-57 (U).

79. Interv with Gerard Gert by G. Lewis Schmidt, 30 Dec 88, 2, FAOHC (U); Hildebrandt, *Explosion*, 49 (U); Browne, "History and Programming Policies of RIAS," 282-87 (U); Schlosser, "Berlin Radio War," 209 (U).
80. Rpt Sokolovskii, Semyonov, and Yudin, 24 Jun 53, in Ostermann, *Uprising in East Germany*, 259 (U); Baring, *Uprising in East Germany*, 39 (U); Smith, *Germany Beyond the Wall*, 225 (U); ltr Rose to Johnston, 23 Jun 53, FO 371/103842, Foreign Office: General Correspondence, NAK (U). Regarding the activities of the West German organizations at the time of the uprising, see Rexin, "Zur Rolle Westdeutschlands und West Berlin am 16/17. Juni 1953," 84-91 (U), and Hagen, *DDR—Juni '53*, 87-88 (U).
81. Fischer, *Two Days that Shook the Soviet World*, 15 (U); Pactor, "Unintended Consequences," 5 (U). Other studies of RIAS's role include Browne, "History and Programming Policies of RIAS," 283-95 (U); and Knabe, *17. Juni 1953*, 124-30 (U).
82. Schlosser, "Berlin Radio War," 217-22 (U); Ewing interview, 47-49, cited in n 74 (U); interv Karl Mautner by Thomas Dunnigan, 12 May 93, 8, FAOHC (U).
Hulick was the Chief of the Political Division, Eastern Element, HICOG, Berlin,

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and later became the Deputy Operations Coordinator in the Office of the Under Secretary of State, March 1954-August 1956 (*FRUS 1952-54*, 7:xvi; *FRUS 1950-55: Intelligence Community*, xxvi (U)).

83. Brant, *East German Rising*, 67 (U); Ostermann, *Uprising in East Germany*, 14 (U); O'Donnell, "I Led a Riot Against the Reds," 28-29, 92 (U); Fischer, *Two Days that Shook the Soviet World*, 14-16, 21, 22, 25-27 (U).
84. *New York Times*, 8 Oct, 12 Nov 52 (U); Browne, "History and Programming Policies of RIAS," 90 (U); memo Connors for Smith, 28 May 53, *FRUS 1952-54*, 7:1576-78 (U); rpt to Pres by Cmte on International Info Activities, 30 Jun 53, *FRUS 1952-54*, 2:1828-29 (U); Dale, "'Like Wildfire'?" 115, n 39 (U); Hildebrandt, *Explosion*, 75 (U); memo, "East Germany," 6 Jul 54, 6-8, Doc. CK3100523615, *DDRS* (U).
85. Gert interv, 2, cited in n 79 (U); Dulles, *Chances of a Lifetime*, 253 (U)
86. Interv Ewing, 53, 67, cited in n 74 (U); interv Klaus Bolling, *Berliner Zeitung*, 14 Jun 03 (U); interv Gert, 2, cited in n 79 (U).
87. Ltr Olver to Hope, 19 Jun 53, FO 371/103842, Foreign Office: General Correspondence, NAK (U). Commenting on the letter, the Office of the United Kingdom High Commissioner for Germany did "not consider that the mild encouragement which may have been given to the East Berlin demonstrators, once the demonstration had started, bears any comparison with the grotesque accusations of Western provocation." (ltr Chancery Wahnerheide to Central Dept, For Off, 23 Jun 53, *ibid*) (U).

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88. *New York Times*, 22 Jun 53 (U); telcon McCloy and Dulles, 23 Jun 53, 11:10 am, Microfilm Reel I, *Dulles/Herter Telephone Conversations* (U); *New York Times*, 27 Jun 53; ltr Stone to Ewing, 21 Jul 53, fldr RIAS Gordon Ewing Letters, box 1, Ewing Collection, Marshall Library (U).
89. Interv Cecil Lyon by John Bovey, 26 Oct 88, 17, FAOHC (U); interv Karl Mautner, 8, cited in n 82 (U).
90. For example, see NSC 132/1, "United States Policy and Courses of Action to Counter Possible Soviet or Satellite Action Against Berlin," 12 Jun 52, and notes of 4th mtg, Ad Hoc Berlin Cmte, 30 Jun 52: *FRUS 1952-54*, 7:1261-69, 1275-77 (U); and PSB D-21/2, "National Psychological Strategy with Respect to Berlin," 3 Feb 53, Doc. CK3100140396, *DDRS* (U).
91. Berlin Command, "Historical Report, 1 Jan 1953 to 30 Jun 1954," encl/w memo McLaughlin to CINCEUR, 1 Dec 54, 81, box 325, U.S. Army Berlin Collection, USAMHI (U); interv Conant by Gordon Craig, 11 Jul 64, 21, JFDOHP, PU (U); interv Lyon, 17, cited in n 89 (U).
92. Interv Martha Mautner by Thomas Dunnigan, 7 Nov 95, 5, FAOHC (U), interv Conant, 21-22, cited in n 91 (U). For the British response to the uprising, see Larres, "Preserving Law and Order" (U).
93. Verbatim mins, 6th and 7th (Extraordinary) Commandants mtgs, 17 Jun, 11:15 am and 5:01 pm (FO 1112/60, Allied Kommandatura: Directives, Minutes and Papers, NAK) (U).

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94. Verbatim min 6th (Extraordinary) mtg, 17 Jun 53, cited in n 93 (U); tel 1670 Berlin to State, 17 Jun 53, in Ostermann, ed, *Uprising in East Germany*, 194-95 (U).
95. Financial Appendix, NSC 5404/1, 1 Dec 53, *FRUS 1952-54*, 7:1394 (U); Berlin Command, "Historical Report," 91, cited in n 86 (U).
96. Interv Ewing, 53, cited in n 74 (U); min B. E. [?] to Strang, 17 Jun 53, FO 371/103849, Foreign Office: General Correspondence, NAK (U).
97. Tel 119 Berlin to For Off, 18 Jun 53, FO 371/103839, Foreign Office: General Correspondence, NAK (U); tel 128 Berlin to For Off, 19 Jun 53, FO 371/103840, *ibid* (U); NIE 12.4-54, "Probable Developments in East Germany Through 1955," 22 Jan 54, 3, CIA website (U)..
98. Tels 559 and 564 Wahnerheide (Ward) to For Off, 20 and 22 Jun 53, *ibid* (U).
99. Powers, Man Who Kept the Secrets, 46 (U).
100. Stockton, *Flawed Patriot*, 46-47 (U).
101. Extract, working paper, Eastern Affairs Division, Berlin Element, HICOG, 25 Jun 53, *FRUS 1952-54*, 7:1594-95 (U). The printed extract of the working paper, sent to State as an attachment to a despatch of 10 August, omits 16 pages of background and discussion. The author was unable to locate the full text of the working paper, the dispatch, or any of its attachments in the cited decimal file in RG 59 at NACP.

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102. News conf, 17 Jun 53, 10:30 am, *Eisenhower Public Papers, 1953*, 440 (U) ; desp 540 Washington to FO, 20 Jun 53, FO 462/7, Foreign Office Confidential Print: United States of America, NAK (U).
103. Memo Straus for Phillips, 17 Jun 53, fldr Germany, box 3, Jackson Records, DDEL (U).
104. Memo of informal PSB mtg, 17 Jun 53, fldr PSB 337 Minutes, box 24, PSB Central Files, NSC Staff Papers, DDEL (U); entry, 17 Jun 53, fldr Log-1953 (2), box 68, Jackson Papers, DDEL (U); Powers, *Man Who Kept the Secrets*, 46 (U).
105. Memo of disc, 150th NSC mtg, 18 Jun 53, Doc. CK3100504727, *DDRS* (U). Extracts are in *FRUS 1952-54*, 7:1586-90 (U), and more fully in Ostermann, ed, *Uprising in East Germany*, 225-31 (U). See also log entry, 18 Jun 53, fldr Log-1953 (2), box 68, Jackson Papers, DDEL (U).
106. Draft rpt (PSB D-45), "Interim U.S. Psychological Strategy Plan for Exploitation of Unrest in Satellite Europe," 22 Jun 1953, Doc. CK 3100099744, *DDRS* (U); address, U.S. Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania, 8 Oct 53, cited in n 76 (U); mins, PSB staff mtg, 22 Jun 53, fldr PSB 337 Staff Meetings (1), box 24, PSB Central Files, NSC Staff Papers, DDEL (U); log entry, 22 Jun 53, fldr Log-1953 (2), box 68, Jackson Papers, DDEL (U).
107. Log entry, 25 Jun 53, *ibid* (U). Sanitized texts of the memo of the NSC discussion of the satellite issue at its 25 June meeting are in *FRUS 1952-54*, 8:65-69 (U), and Ostermann, ed, *Uprising in East Germany*, 329-31 (U). Briefing notes for Allen Dulles's use at the meeting are Doc. CIA-RDP80R01443R000100240001-5,

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CREST, NACP (U). For NSC 158, "United States Objectives and Actions to Exploit the Unrest in the Satellite States," 29 June 1953, see Ostermann, ed, *Uprising in East Germany*, 332-34 (U). A heavily excised text of the PSB's longer report (PSB D-45), "Interim U.S. Psychological Strategy Plan for Exploitation of Unrest in Satellite Europe," which the PSB approved at its informal meeting on 1 July, is Doc. CK3100088772, *DDRS* (U).

108. NSC 158, 29 Jun 53, cited in n 107 (U).
109. Memo Enyart for Morgan, 23 Jun 53, fldr PSB 091.4 Eastern Europe (1), box 15, PSB Central Files, NSC Staff Papers, DDEL (U).
110. News conf, 30 Jun 53, American Foreign Policy: Basic Documents, 1950-1955, 2:1745-46 (U).
111. News conf, 1 Jul 53, *Eisenhower Public Papers, 1953*, 463, 468-69 (U).
112. Entry, 13 Jul 56, fldr Diary 1953-1957, box 5, Hughes Papers, PU (U).
113. "Notes on Visit to Camp Sheltering Demonstrators of June 16 and 17," 20 Jun 53, fldr Germany and Berlin 1951-1953, box 12, Eleanor Lansing Dulles Papers, DDEL (U).
114. Tel 4 State to Prague, repeated to Warsaw, Budapest, and Bucharest, 6 Jul 53, *FRUS 1952-54*, 8:69 (U). For the responses, dated between 7 and 9 Jul 53, see *ibid*, 70-74 (U)
115. Diaryentry, 10 Jul 53, fldr Diary 1953-1957, box 5, Hughes Papers, PU (U).

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116. For the food relief program, see Ingimundarson, "The Eisenhower Administration, the Adenauer Government, and the Political Uses of the East German Uprising in 1953," 394-409 (U).
117. Memo, "Czechoslovakia—Guidance No. 10," 30 Jun 53, summarized and quoted in Holt, *Radio Free Europe*, 147-49 (U); paper, Walker, "PROSPERO: Preliminary Report," 21 Jul 53, w/atcd banknote and leaflet texts, fldr Balloons, box 2, Jackson Records, DDEL (U); Puddington, *Broadcasting Freedom*, 63-64 (U); Johnson, *Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty*, 51-52 (U).
118. Memo Barnes for Chief Ops (DD/P), 5 Aug 53. [REDACTED]
119. Memo Helms for Dep Dir (Plans), 6 Aug 53; memo Wisner for DDI, 8 Aug 53: ibid [REDACTED] CIA 1.4(c) OSD 1.4(c)
120. Memo Thurston for Merchant, 11 Sep 53, fldr Chiefs of Mission Meeting, Vienna, Sept. 1953, box 32, Entry 1274, Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs Files, RG 59, NACP (U); memo Bross for DCI, 2 Oct 53 [REDACTED]
121. Memo Godel for DepSecDef, 29 Jun 53, fldr Chrono, box 13, Special Operations Files, Acc 63A-1575, WNRC (S).
122. Paper, "A Report to the National Security Council by Task Force 'C' of Project Solarium on a Course of Action Which the United States Might Presently or in the Future Undertake with Respect to the Soviet Power Bloc--Alternative 'C'," (SOL-

TF/C-1), 158-59, fldr Project Solarium TFC (5), box 9, Subject Subseries, NSC Files, DDEL (S).

123. Kennan and Goodpaster comments, 27 Feb 88, Pickett, ed, *George F. Kennan and the Origins of Eisenhower's New Look*, 20, 24; log entry, 16 Jul 53, fldr Log-1953 (2), box 68, Jackson Papers, DDEL (U). A good treatment of the Solarium exercise is Immerman, *John Foster Dulles*, 60-74 (U).
124. Allen Dulles remarks, memo of disc, 157th NSC mtg, 30 Jul 53, *FRUS 1952-54*, 2:435-36 (U).
125. Address, 8 Oct 53, cited in n 76 (U).
126. Memo Jackson for Smith, 16 Nov 53 (copies to Cutler and Staats), fldr Soviet Satellites in Eastern Europe and US Policy Towards (3), box 7, Special Staff File Series, NSC Staff Papers, DDEL (U). Jackson also apparently sent a copy to Allen Dulles.
127. Draft memo (Hirsch, Taquey, Comstock), Jackson for OCB, 3 Nov 53, atched to memo Hirsch for Jackson, 3 Nov 53, Doc. CK3100317730, *DDRS* (U). The saga of the five Czechs is related in Masin, *Gauntlet* (U).
128. Memo Jackson for Smith and Allen Dulles, 13 Jan 54, Doc. CK3100276589, *DDRS* (U).
129. Ltr Jackson to Dibella, 4 May 54, fldr Di-Misc, box 46, Jackson Papers, DDEL (U).

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130. Memo Jackson for Pres, 22 Feb 54, *FRUS 1952-54*, 7:1215-20 (quote, 1220) (U);
memo Jackson for Wisner, 27 Feb 53, Doc. CK3100069979, *DDRS* (U); memo
Jackson for Smith, 15 Mar 54, Doc. CK3100193054, *ibid* (U).

131.

132.

133.

134. Thomas, *Very Best Men*, 87-88 (quote, 88) (U).

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135.

memo of disc, 157th NSC mtg 30 Jul 53, *FRUS 1952-54*, 2:439 (U):

136. Memo Godel for Erskine, 30 Jul 53, fldr Chrono, box 13, OSO Records, Acc
63A-1575, RG 330, WNRC; memo for PSB members, "Excision," 11 Aug 53,
atchd to memo Erskine for SecDef, 11 Aug 53, *ibid*

137.

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The JSSC member was

Major Gen. Elmer J. Rogers, USAF, in a conversation with Baker and General Jesmond Balmer on 19 August.

138. Quoted in memo Wisner for DCI, 4 Mar 54, *ibid* (C).139. Memcon Baker w/Thurston, 4 Sep 53, *ibid* (C).

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140.

[REDACTED]

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141. Memo Jackson for Pres, 1 Mar 54, fldr Cutler, General Robert, box 45, Jackson Papers, DDEL (U); log entry, 8 Mar 54, fldr Log-1954 (2), box 68, *ibid* (U). A sanitized version of the 1 March memo is Doc. CK3100111989, *DDRS* (U).

142.

[REDACTED]

NIE 10-55, "Anti-Communist Resistance Potential in the Sino-Soviet Bloc," 12 Apr 55, 8, CIA website (U); memo Bishop, 4 Jan 55, fldr Soviet Satellites 1955, box 30, Entry 1586, OCB Files, RG 59, NACP (U). English-language translations of Tirana radio coverage of the indictment, trial proceedings, and sentencing, 4-13 April 1954, are in FO 371/71263, Foreign Office: General Correspondence, NAK (U). Out of the government for nearly a year and apparently unaware of the decision to abandon the Albania operation,

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Jackson continued to push for it, referring to resolution of the Trieste dispute in October 1954 and asking, "What stands in the way of initiating proper talks with Yugoslavia, Great Britain, Italy, and Greece, or any combination of these four, to get going on this operation, which would have a more resounding impact in 1955 than in any previous year." He also raised a broader question: "What are we prepared to do if the tension in the satellites were to reach a critical mass and blow this year? Maybe Allen knows the answer. But I am not so sure." (Memo, "Operation Kremlin Kracks," 16 Feb 55, atchd to ltr Jackson to Rockefeller and Dulles, 17 Feb 55, Doc. CK3100497636, *DDRS*) (U).

143. NSC 174, "United States Policy Toward the Soviet Satellites in Eastern Europe" 11 Dec 53, printed in full in Ostermann, ed, *Uprising in East Germany, 1953*, 392-413 (U). An excised version is in *FRUS, 1952-54*, 8:110-27 (quote, 126).
144. Koons paper, "Satellites," 30 Nov 53, fldr Soviet Satellites in E. Eur. & US Policy (3), box 7, NSC Special Staff Series, DDEL (S).
145. Memo of disc, 177th NSC mtg, 23 Dec 53, *FRUS 1952-54*, 8:127-28 (U).
146. Memo Wisner for DCI, 8 Jan 54, *FRUS: Intelligence Community, 1950-55*: 469-71 (U).
147. Memo Bross for DCI, 13 Jan 54, app to CIA paper [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] CIA 1.4(c) OSD 1.4(c)
148. Cook, *Declassified Eisenhower*, 122 (1st quote) (U); Brands, *Cold Warriors*, 117 2d quote) (U).

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149. Memo, "Operation Kremlin Kracks," 16 Feb 55, cited in n 149 (U).
150. OCB Wrkng Grp papers, "List of Agreed Courses of Action for Period 7/1/54-12/31/54 to Implement NSC 174," and "Additional Actions to Implement NSC 174 Which Have Not Been Accepted by the Working Group," 25 Aug 54, atchd to memos Staats for OCB, 20 Aug and 7 Sep 54. fldr Soviet Satellites 1953 & 1954, box 31, Entry 1586, OCB Files, RG 59, NACP (U). The paper listing the agreed courses of action, without the attachment, is in *FRUS 1950-55: Intelligence Community*, 31-39 (U).
151. Memo Delaney for Stevens (EE, State), 24 Jan 55, *FRUS 1955-57*, 25:10-11 (U). Delaney did not say specifically that his response reflected CIA input, but the language suggests this was the case.
152. NSC 5501, "Basic National Security Policy," 7 Jan 55, *FRUS 1955-57*, 19:24-38 (quote, 31) (U.).
153. NSC 5505/1, "Exploitation of Soviet and European Satellite Vulnerabilities," 31 Jan 55, Doc. CK3100129330, *DDRS* (quotes, 11-12) (U). NSC 5505/1 consisted of three parts: (1) a statement of policy, (2) a summary of the report by the special committee on exploitation of Soviet and European Satellite vulnerabilities (Milliken Committee), and (3) a memo of 6 January from the JCS Adviser to the NSC Planning Board (Gerhart) to the Board describing his and JCS objections to the Milliken Committee Report. A sanitized text of the statement of policy, with excisions, is in *FRUS 1955-57*, 24:20-22 (U).
154. Ibid, 3-4 (U)

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155. Draft, "Outline Plan of Operations on NSC 174 with Respect to Soviet Satellites in Eastern Europe," 1 Jul 55, Doc. CK3100018292, *DDRS* (U).
156. Interv Charles Bohlen by Philip Crawl, 23 Jun 64, 25-26, *JFDOHP* (U).
157. NSC 5524/1, "Basic U.S. Policy in Relation to Four-Power Negotiations," 11 Jul 55, *FRUS 1955-57*, 5:295 (U); memo Dulles for Eisenhower, 18 Jun 55, *FRUS 1955-57*, 5:240 (U); address, 25 Aug 55, 17-19, cited in n 157).
158. Testimony, 25 Jul 55, *Executive Sessions of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee*, 1955, 7:734-35. When the heretofore closed transcript of the hearings was published in 1975, the committee chairman, John Sparkman (D, Alabama), criticized Dulles for his 'wildly optimistic' prediction that the Soviet hold on Eastern Europe would collapse within five years (*ibid*, vi) (U)
159. Statement, White House press sec, 30 Dec 55, *American Foreign Policy: Current Documents 1956*, 450-51 (U).
160. OCB Progress Rpt on NSC 174, "United States Policy Toward the Soviet Satellites in Eastern Europe," 29 Feb 56, *FRUS 1955-57*, 25:126 (U).
161. Allen Dulles's address in Los Angeles, "Purge of Stalinism," 13 Apr 56, in which he surveyed recent developments in the Soviet Union in the wake of the party congress, is CIA-RDP70-00058R000100250065-2, CREST, NACP (U).
162. Memo of disc, 289th NSC mtg, 28 Jun 56, *FRUS 1955-57*, 24:121 (U); Cline, *Secrets, Spies, and Scholars*, 162 (U). In a subsequent interview, Cline altered his recollection
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163. Memo Katek for DDP, 2 Aug 56,

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164. Toranska, "Them," 56 (U); interv Stefan Staszewski by Toranska, nd, ibid, 174 (U); interv Flora Lewis, interviewer not identified, 7 Jan 96, "Cold War Interviews: Episode 7," National Security Archive website (U); ltr Moore to Allen Dulles, 1 May 56, Digital Series, Allen Dulles Papers, PU (U); Estabrook memo of talk w/Barber, 26 Aug 57, fldr Willard F. Barber, box 1, Estabrook Papers, JFKL (U); Melman and Raviv, "Journalist's Connections," 219-25 (U); tel 2582 Moscow to State, 17 May 56, *FRUS 1955-57*, 24:103-04 (U); tel 2558, Moscow to State, 14 May 56, ibid, 103, n 2 (quote) (U).

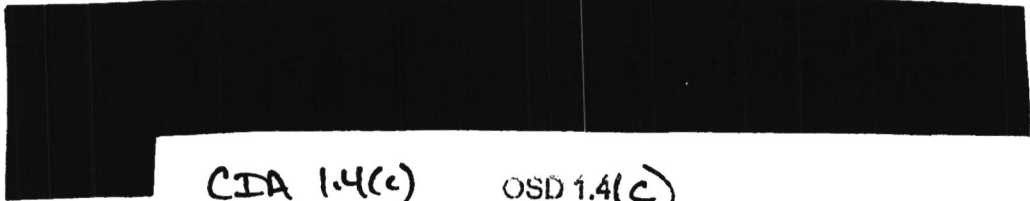
165.

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166.

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167. Tel 1339 State to Moscow, 31 May 56, *FRUS 1955-57*, 24:107-08 (U); Wisner notes, 1 Jun 56,  National Committee for a Free Europe 
 Cline, *Secrets, Spies, and Scholars*, 163-64 (U); For Off paper, "Khrushchev's 'Secret Speech' to the Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union on February 24-25, 1956," FO 418/97, Confidential Print: Russia and Soviet Union, NAK (U).
168. Kemp-Welch, "Khrushchev's 'Secret Speech' and Polish Politics," 182 (U).
169. Tel 430 Budapest to State, 24 May 56, *FRUS 1955-57*, 25:168-70 (quote 169) (U).
170. Diary entry, 3 May 56, Micunovič, *Moscow Diary*, 42-45 (U).
171. Paper, Tims and Klosson, "Soviet Control of the Eastern European Satellites," 7 Jun 56, fldr OCB Subcommittee on Soviet Problems III, box 29, Entry 1274, Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs Files, RG 59, NACP (U).
172. Paper, Senior Research Staff on International Communism, "The 20th CPSU Congress in Retrospect: Its Principal Issues and Possible Effects on International Communism" (CIA/SRS-1), 13 Jun 56, 10, 16-17, CIA website (U).
173. Address, San Francisco, 21 Jun 56, Department of State *Bulletin*, 2 Jul 56, 3-7 (quotes, 4, 7) (U).

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174. Statement, 26 Jun 56, *Executive Sessions of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee* (Historical Series), 84th Cong, 2nd Sess, 8:501, 503, 510-11 (U).
175. Reston, "The 'Victory' of Dulles," *New York Times*, 28 Jun 56 (U).
176. News conf, 27 Jun 56, Department of State *Bulletin*, 9 Jul 56, 47-53 (quotes, 47, 50) (U).
177. Reston, cited in n 165; memcon Dulles and Pres, 13 Jul 56, *FRUS 1955-57*, 24:127-28 (quote, 128) (U).
178. Interv Richard Johnson by Charles Stuart Kennedy, 30 Jan 91, 15-16, FAOHC (U).
179. Summaries of the Poznań events are in Korboński, *Warsaw in Exile*, 110-24; Lewis, *A Case History of Hope*, 139-50 (U); and Matthews, *Tinderbox*, 87-137 (U).
180. Estabrook memo of talk with Barber, 26 Aug 57, cited in n 164 (U).
181. CIA, "Current Intelligence Weekly Summary," 5 Jul 56, pt 1:4, CREST, NACP (U); *New York Times*, 1 Jul 56 (U); msg 131 Warsaw to For Off, 3 Jul 56, FO 417/53, Confidential Print: Poland, NAK. [Citation for casualties and torture]
182. Telcon, 28 Jun 56, *FRUS 1955-57*, 25:181; notes (Howe), 29 Jun 56, fldr Minutes, Dec. 9, 1955-July 30, 1956, box 6, Entry 1609, Secretary's Staff Meetings, RG 59, NACP (U).
183. Department of State *Bulletin*, 23 Jul 56, 151-52 (U): statement Actg Chief News Div, 29 Jun 56, *American Foreign Policy: Current Documents 1956*, 503 (U); *New York Times*, 1, 4 Jul 56 (U).

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184. RFE rpt, nd, atchd to memo Egan (Dir, RFE) for Shepardson, 6 Jul 56, fldr Free Europe Committee 1956 (5), box 54, Jackson Papers, DDEL (U).
185. Notes (Howe), 2 Jul 56, fldr Minutes Dec, 9-1955-July 30, 1956, box 6, Entry 1609, Secretary's Staff Meetings, RG 59, NACP (U); memo (Comstock), 22nd Spec Cmte mtg, 2 Jul 56, fldr OCB 000.1 USSR (File #2) (1), box 1, Central File Series, OCB Records, DDEL (U); rcd of actions, OCB mtg, 6 Jul 56, ibid (U).
186. Notes on OCB mtg, 3 Jul 56, *FRUS 1955-57*, 25:189 (U); memo of 23rd Spec Cmte mtg, 5 Jul 56, fldr OCB 000.1 USSR (File #2) (1), box 1, Central File Series, OCB Records, DDEL (U).
187. Memo of 27th Spec Cmte mtg, 16 Jul 56, fldr OCB 000.1 USSR (File #2) (1), box 1, Central File Series, OCB Records, DDEL (U); memo Wilcox to ActySecState, 6 Jul 56, *FRUS 1955-57*, 25:197-98 and 198, n 1 (U).
188. Pravda, 1 Jul 56, in Zinner, ed, National Communism and Popular Revolt in Eastern Europe, 136 (U); New York Times, 3 Jul 56 (U).
189. Atlantic City Press, 2 Jul 56 (U).
190. News conf, 11 Jul 56, Department of State *Bulletin*, 23 Jul 56, 150 (U).
191. Diary entries, 14, 15 Jul 56, Micunovič, *Moscow Diary*, 86-89 (U).
192. See NSC 5607, "Statement of Policy on East-West Exchanges," 29 Jun 56, *FRUS 1955-57*, 24:243-46 (U); an memo Steering Committee of the Council on Foreign Economic Policy to the Council Chairman, 13 Jul 56, ibid, 10:377-80 (U). For Eisenhower's and Dulles's comments supporting the provision of surplus agricultural products to Soviet bloc countries, see the editorial note quoting the

disc at the 277th NSC meeting, 27 Feb 56 (ibid, 25:118-19 (U)) and memo of disc, 281st NSC mtg, 5 Apr 56, ibid, 10:330 (U).

193. *New York Times*, 30 Jun 56 (U).
194. OCB paper, "Suggestions for United States Action in the Event of Recurrence of Mass Uprisings in the Soviet Zone of Germany," undated but probably May 1955, *FRUS 1955-57*, 26: 533-37; OCB paper, "Progress Report on United States Policy Relating to East Germany (NSC 174)," 17 May 56, ibid, 556-57 (U).
195. Memo Elbrick to SecState, 10 Jul 56, *FRUS 1955-57*, 25:211 (U); NSC 5608, "U.S. Policy toward the Soviet Satellites in Eastern Europe," consisted of a draft statement of policy, dated 3 July, and a staff study circulated separately and dated 6 July. A partial text of the draft statement of policy is in *FRUS 1955-57*, 25: 190-94; the complete text is Doc. CK3100286602, *DDRS* (U). The complete text of the staff study is in Békés, Byrne, and Rainer, eds, *1956 Hungarian Revolution*, 119-28 (U); a partial text is in *FRUS 1955-57*, 25:198-209 (U).
196. Smith briefing paper, "Item 1 - U.S. Policy Toward the Soviet Satellites in Eastern Europe (NSC 5608)," 11 Jul 56, fldr Soviet Satellites in Eastern Europe and US Policy Towards (2), box 7, Special Staff File Series, NSC Staff Papers, DDEL (U); memo of disc, 290th NSC mtg, 12 Jul 56, fldr 290th NSC Meeting, box 8, NSC Series, Whitman File, DDEL (U). A substantially excised text is in *FRUS 1955-57*, 25:212-16 (U). A more complete, but still partial version, is in Békés, Byrne, and Rainer, eds, *1956 Hungarian Revolution*, 129-35 (U).

197. NSC 5608/1, "U.S. Policy Toward the Soviet Satellites in Eastern Europe," 18 Jul 56, including the appendix, is *ibid*, 152-56 (U). As printed, the appendix contains an error in paragraph 2. The word "nationalists" should read "nationalism".
198. Stenographic notes, conv between Dulles and M [Max Millikin], 21 Jul 56, 6-7, Doc. CIA-RDP80R01731R000800210007-8, CREST, NACP (U).
199. Memo of disc, 296th NSC mtg, 6 Sep 56, *FRUS 1955-57*, 26:560-62 (U); "Statement of Policy on U.S. Policy Toward East Germany" (Supplement to NSC 160/1), 12 Sep 56, *ibid*, 563-67 (U). Several lines of the special annex are not printed in *FRUS*. For the full text, see Doc. CK3100102417, *DDRS* (U). The statement of policy did not replace the existing paper (NSC 160/1), which covered Germany in general, only those sections pertaining to East Germany. NSC 160/1, "United States Position with Respect to Germany," 17 Aug 53, is in *FRUS 1952-54*, 7, pt 1:510-20 (U).
200. Several documents mention the CIA plan, not completed and approved until August, but the author has not found a copy [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] (Memrcd Helms, 6 Sep 56, 6 Sep 56)
[REDACTED] CIA 1.4(c) OSD 1.4(c)
201. Memo Wisner for DDI, 16 Jun 56, fldr 12.4 NSC Papers 1956, box 48, *ibid*

202. Memo Meyer (Chief, International Organizations Division, CIA) to DepDir (Plans), 15 Aug 56, w/atchd paper, "Agreed Policy Governing Free Europe Committee Operations," 7 Aug 56 [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] CIA 1.4(c)
203. Memo Helms for Chief (FI), 5 Oct 56 [REDACTED] De Silva, *Sub Rosa*, 87 (U); Gati, *Failed Illusions*, 5, 73, 93 (U). OSD 1.4(c)
204. *Washington Post*, 1 Dec 76 (U); Corson, *Armies of Ignorance*, 369 (U); see also Ranelagh, *The Agency*, 287 (U).
205. The Redsox program involved the illegal infiltration of agents into the Soviet Union. The results were disappointing, and it was replaced in the mid-fifties by a program codenamed Redskin that utilized legal travelers to collect information. Begun in 1951, Redcap monitored Soviet officials abroad and encouraged them to defect. (rpt Kirkpatrick, 31 Aug 51, *FRUS*, 1950-1955: *Intelligence Community*, 203, n 2. (U)) Regarding Redcap activities in Berlin, see Murphy, Kondrashev, and Bailey, *Battleground Berlin*, 238-52 (U)
206. Diary entry, 14 Oct 54, Sulzberger, *Last of the Giants*, 95-98 (quote, 98) (U); desp 29 Makins to Lloyd, 27 Nov 56, FO 462/10, Foreign Office: Confidential Print, United States of America, NAK (U); interv George Kennan by Richard Challener, 3 Mar 67, 39-41, JFDOHP, PU (U).
207. Memo O'Connor for Morgan, 24 Mar 53, fldr PSB 091.4 Eastern Europe (1), box 15, PSB Central Files, DDEL (U).
208. Memo of disc, 280th NSC mtg, *FRUS* 1955-57, 25:128 (U).

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